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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

APRIL 28th, 1977, ISSUE No. 15

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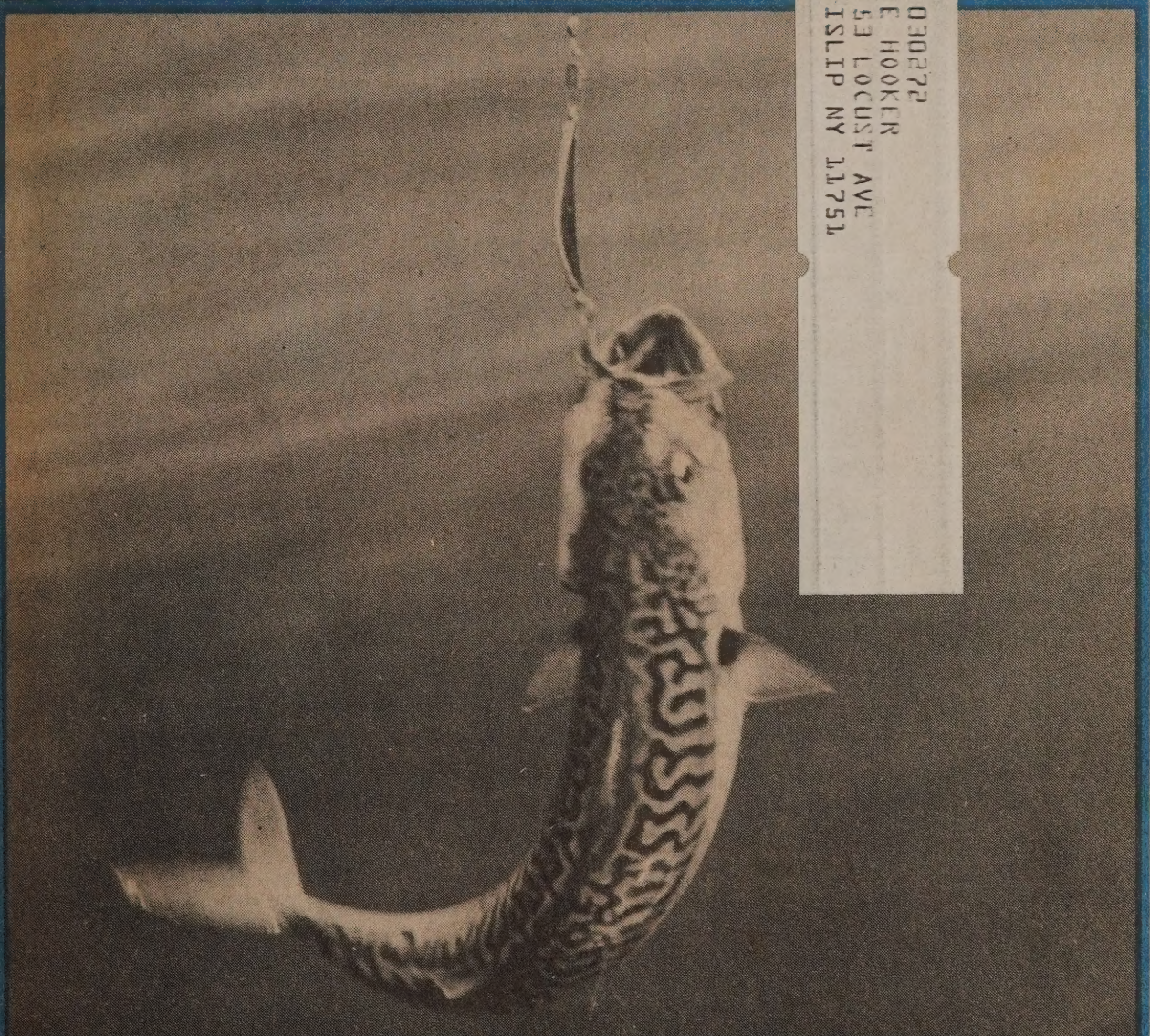

Albany Wants to Rip-Off Long Island Boaters Again!

SEE EDITORIAL ON PAGE 4.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 15 APRIL 28th, 1977

FEATURES-

FISHERMAN'S CONTEST ..... Staff 6
Fish Talk:
WEAKFISH ..... Dr. W. A. Muller 11
ASK THE CAPTAIN ..... Capt. Ronnie Lepper ... 12
Sinker Bouncing:
PORTRAIT OF A MACKEREL ..... Matt Ahern 14
SurfSide:
SLINGING LEAD Pt. II ..... John Fritz 16
WEAKFISHING PT. I ..... Capt. Ron Onorato 18
PIKE & PICKEREL PRIMER ..... Fred Guardineer 21

DEPARTMENTS-

Editorial 4
Fishing Contest 6
Chum Lines 8
Club News 8
Pass It On 9
Fishing Reports 22
Fisherman's Package 24
Litter Box 23
Classified Ads 44
Lure Offer 46
Tide Tables 47

About the Cover—

THE MACKS ARE HERE! THE MACKS ARE HERE! As predicted last week, the mackerel have arrived and the action is fast and furious from all south shore ports. See the fishing reports for more mack facts on the big mack attack.

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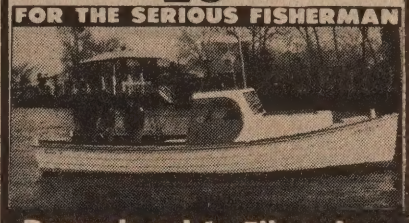

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EDITORIAL

Albany Wants to Rip-Off Long Island Boaters Again!

The Department of Parks and Recreation, under the direction of Governor Carey, has introduced a bill to the House that would increase the fee for registering a motorboat by more than 500%, without providing any additional services or facilities for those that would be forced to pay this new "tax." The bill would also require that for the first time sailboats would be subject to the same registration requirements as motorboats.

The House Bill, A-3752, was introduced by the Committee on Rules, chaired by Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut. We urge all readers to write both Assemblyman Steingut and Governor Carey, as well as your local legislators, asking them to kill this bill or, at the very least, call for public hearings on the matter. Letters should be sent to: The Hon. Hugh Carey, Executive Chamber, Albany, N.Y. 12224; and The Hon. Stanley Steingut, New York State Assembly, Albany, N.Y. 12223.

Presently, motorboats are registered for three-year periods for the following fees: vessels less than 16 feet, $3.00; vessels 16 to 25 feet, $6.00; and vessels 26 feet and over, $10. The new increased registration fees would be based on a cost per foot, as follows: Vessels up to 16 feet, $1.00 per foot; vessels 16 to 25 feet, $1.25 per foot; and vessels 26 feet and over, $1.50 per foot. Under this formula, a 25 foot boat, that presently costs only $6.00 to register, would cost $31.25—an increase of 521%!!!

There are more than 100,000 registered motorboats on Long Island, with an estimated average length of 18 feet. The present registration fee of $6.00 for these boats raises $600,000 in revenues. Under the proposed registration fees of $22.50 for an 18 foot vessel, $2,250,000 in revenues would be collected—which would give New York State a windfall of $1,650,000! And this is only for the Long Island area...an additional $3,000,000-plus would be collected from the rest of the state, not including the new proposed registration fees to be squeezed out of the sailboat fraternity.

So let's see what we have here. The state is looking to collect an additional $1,650,000 from Long Island boaters. What do we get in return for this exorbitant fee increase? The answer is: nothing, zilch, a slack line—in other words, Albany is trying to skunk us. Oh, sure, the state will make more money available for enforcement of the navigation laws, but both Nassau and Suffolk counties are already spending the $50,000 maximum. So where would all this money that they want to squeeze out of us go? Why, into the general fund, naturally, where it could be spent on any number of pet projects by the powers that be.

The state presents two reasons in the Memorandum that accompanies the bill to justify increasing the registration fees: "Vessel registration fees have not been increased since their establishment in 1959," and "The current fees are also low in relation to registration fees in neighboring states." Sorry fellas, just because the fees haven't been raised since 1959 doesn't mean they should be raised now. It just doesn't work that way, and you know it! In fact, we charge that if the state were forced to use "zero-based budgeting" and had to justify the PRESENT registration fees according to value received by Long Island boaters from boating services and facilities provided by the state with the fees it now collects, the state would be put in the position of seeking to ABOLISH the registration fee "tax!" The memorandum also carefully avoids comparing what boating services and facilities "neighboring states" provide with monies collected from their registration fees. This is the only aspect of the bill that makes sense to us...why should N.Y. State embarrass itself?

In the memorandum, it states that sailboats should also be subject to the same registration fees because "these vessels make use of the facilities and services which are paid for by registration fees (boat launching sites, marinas)..." Our question, once again, is: what launching ramps? What marinas? In our editorial in the April 7th issue, "The Case of the Purloined Launching Ramps, Or: Something's Rotten in Albany," we disclosed that of the 171 launching ramps built by the state with monies collected from the present motorboat registration fees, only FIVE are located on Long Island. The remaining 166 are located upstate, as are all of the state maintained buoy systems. Will this new law build new launching ramps on Long Island? No. Would it build more marinas? No. Would it open up unnavigatable inlets? No. Would it provide new buoy systems? No. Would it build artificial fishing reefs? No. Let's face it, Mr. Carey—you don't want to increase motorboat registration fees. You want to impose a motorboat registration TAX on us, without giving anything in return. And on that basis, the answer is NO!!!

Justify to us why Long Islander's aren't receiving any "boating services and facilities," NOW for the money we pay through motorboat registration fees and taxes on marine gas and oil. On the day that Long Island has an equal share of

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.)

EDITORIAL — REPLY —

Your March 24th editorial entitled, "New Human Species - (Homo dumis)," laimed that sport, rather than commercial fishermen, sell more pounds of striped ıass, bluefish and weakfish. The author stated, "I challenge any fisherman ... to natch my hard data w · hard data if you can prove me wrong."

SOS accepts that challenge, and as "hard data" refers to the National Marine Fisheries Service publication entitled, "Fisheries Statistics of the United States," ligest #67. This volume covers the year 1973, the most recent edition available at he Nassau County Reference Library and with the "possible" exception of 1974, ɔrobably the latest in print.

According to this extremely detailed publication, commercial landings of the ıforementioned species along the Eastern Seaboard totaled 42,547,700 pounds, of vhich "Handlines" accounted for 3,216,200 pounds, or 7.56%. For comparative ɔurposes, in 1966 this percentage was 7.62%.

Since the "handline" category includes landings by full-time or "regular" :ommercial fishermen, it follows that the sportfishermen's percentage was even ower. True, some sales go unrecorded, but this is balanced out by the fact that it is ıpplicable to both groups.

The editorial stated that sportfishermen "take" more bass, blues and weaks. Considering the numerical superiority of sport over commercial fishermen, we tend :o agree. However, we question the extent to which this oft-repeated claim is true, ınd the availability of "hard data" to back it up.

Reference material such as, "The Saltwater Angling Survey," are estimates, ınd the data produced is frequently subject to misinterpretation and/or misuse.

For example, "commercial landings" are "hard data," what's more, they ·epresent dead fish and as such, are no longer part of the available fish stocks. Conversely, the "Angling Survey" is based upon "what was caught" rather than "what was killed." Angling, as opposed to netting, is a selective or controlled method of capture, permitting the return of small fish. What's more, an unknown number of sportfishermen release much of their catch, regardless of size. How then, can a flat statement or comparison be made when the basis for the data being used differs, and, is reasonably accurate in one case, but "estimated" in the other?

In accepting the claim that sportfishermen "take" more striped bass, it must be borne in mind that several states prohibit the sale and/or netting of this species. Obviously under such circumstances there would be little or no related commercial fishery.

Our remarks are not intended to play down the resource impact of sportfishing, or excuse the questionable practice of anglers marketing fish. On the contrary, we frown upon such practices and recognize that future management programs must include sportfishing regulations.

Editorials such as the one in question, do not serve the best interests of sportfishing. Agreed, "Homo dumis" exists within the anglers' ranks; he is the apathetic; the polluter; the hungry, misguided commercial/sportsman. But it is counter-productive to so categorize those who are attempting to preserve our precious resources. You may disagree with their opinions, but do so in an accurate and dignified manner.

Save Our Stripers, Inc.

---

launching ramps...on the day that Long Island waters have state maintained buoy systems...on the day that every boat on the North Shore has a slip in a state marina...on the day a boat can safely sail out of Shinnecock or Moriches Inlet...on the day that all of these things have been done, ask us for an increase in motorboat registration fees, and we'll consider it...

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RICH REINA
Publisher

PETE BARRETT
Contest Director

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Contest will begin May 1st and end on November 30th, 1977. Competition is open to organized salt water fishing clubs within the readership area of the Fisherman magazines including but not limited to Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

2. Clubs shall submit a typewritten club roster with their registration blank. New club members are not eligible to score points within the first fifteen days of their membership.

3. Eligible species and weights are: Striped Bass, 15 lbs.; Bluefish, 5 lbs.; Weakfish, 5 lbs. One point per pound will be scored if caught from a boat, two points per pound if caught from the surf. Monthly entries will be divided into six categories: Blues caught from boat, Blues caught from surf, Stripers caught from boat, Stripers caught from surf, Weakfish caught from boat, Weakfish caught from surf.

4. **ONLY** the 10 **HEAVIEST** fish in each category will be entered in the contest each month. Each club can enter up to a total of 60 fish per month for Contest Points. The club representative shall be supplied with monthly tally sheets which he will return to Contest Director within 10 days after the previous month's fishing. Each one of the 60 entries on the tally sheet must be accompanied by a proper weigh-in slip. Slips in excess of the 60 maximum entries should not be sent in to the Contest since they will not be counted in the point totals.

5. Qualifying fish must be caught on rod and reel. A fish is disqualified for entry if any person, other than the fisherman, handles any part of the tackle during the playing of the fish, or gives aid other than taking the leader for gaffing purposes. A fish is disqualified if the fisherman's rod or reel fails while playing the fish so that the fish cannot be landed unaided.

6. Fish must be weighed on tested scales and measured with a tape measure. Fishermen cannot weigh their own fish. Fishermen are encouraged to use weigh stations, but, when not convenient, may follow weigh-in procedures outlined in their club by-laws.

7. An eligible catch will be scored for **ONE CLUB ONLY.** If the same fish is registered more than once, the fish is automatically disqualified from participating in the Contest. A fisherman may enter fish for one club only. Any fisherman entering fish for more than one club will be disqualified.

8. All weigh-in slips must be signed by the fishermen, witness, club representative and weighmaster. Tally sheets of the club's 60 heaviest fish (10 in each category) must reach the Contest Director within 10 days after the end of the previous month. For instance, entries for the month of May must reach the director by June 10th.

9. All commercial sport fishermen, including professional boa captains and their mates are ineligible to score as a individual or for any club entered in the Contest.

10. Weigh-in slips for the Contest will be accepted at discretion of the Advisory Panel and their decisions wi final. Weigh-in slips will be disqualified if any impo information for verification is omitted such as, date ca weight, club name, fish category, place caught, signature address of weighmaster.

11. Forward weigh-in slips, tally sheets and all communica tions relative to the contest to: **THE FISHERMAN**, Box 1994 Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963.

12. Club representative must notify Contest officials o changes in home address.

13. Employees of **THE FISHERMAN MAGAZINE** are no eligible to weigh-in fish or otherwise participate in the Contest.

AWARD CATEGORIES

The Contest will recognize the three highest scoring clubs in each state and the three highest scoring clubs overall by awarding trophies. Trophies will also be awarded to those clubs scoring the highest number of points in each of the six single categories. Members with the heaviest catch in each of the six categories by state will receive a trophy. Individual awards will also be given for individual points scored.

Overall Winners

The first, second and third highest scoring clubs, in all categories combined, regardless of state.

State Winners

1. The first, second, and third highest scoring clubs in all categories combined in each state.
2. Club with most total points for blues from the surf.
3. Club with most total points for blues from a boat.
4. Club with most total points for stripers from the surf.
5. Club with most total points for stripers from a boat.
6. Club with most total points for weakfish from the surf.
7. Club with most total points for weakfish from a boat.

Individual Winners

1. Individual club members by state with the heaviest single catch of a blue from the surf, blue from a boat, striper from the surf, striper from a boat, weakfish from the surf and weakfish from a boat.

2. Individual members from each competing club are eligible for award pins for points scored in all categories.

300 Points ..... **Bronze Pin**
500 Points ..... **Silver Pin**
1000 Points ..... **Gold Pin**

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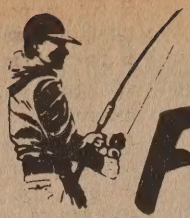
At the end of each contest year, participating clubs receive a **MOST VALUABLE FISHERMAN AWARD** to be given to the member of the club who, in the opinion of the club members, has worked hard for the betterment of the club. The award may be given for efforts in conservation, work with veterans, childrens programs or for outstanding fishing ability. Winner of this award is selected solely by the club members.

FISHING LUB CONTEST!

The Fisherman is starting a new Salt Water Fishing Contest for fishing clubs that like to compete with others both in and out of their state. Clubs that wish to participate in this new contest must appoint an Official Representative for their club and have him fill out the Registration Form on the right and send it to The Fisherman as soon as possible so that weigh-in slips and copies of the rules & regulations can be sent out for all your club members.

Fill out the REGISTRATION FORM and send to:

The Fisherman
SALT WATER
FISHING CONTEST
P.O. Box 1994
Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963



The FISHERMAN

Salt Water ☆ FISHING CONTEST ☆

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Club .....
Address .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....

Official Club Representative for the Contest:

Name .....
Address .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....
Telephone No. .....

Club Roster Attached: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Predominent Participation—Check One:
☐ Boat ☐ Surf ☐ Both Equally

I will read all the contest rules, instructions and recommendations. When I understand them fully I will communicate all rules, instructions and releasing procedures to the membership of my club, in writing, before the contest starts.

I will discuss all relevant information with club members during a general membership meeting before the contest begins.

I will uphold the rules of the contest, and I will not enter any fraudulent or suspicious affidavits on behalf of my club.

Furthermore, I will impress upon the membership of my club the importance of honesty and integrity in all aspects of the contest.

I understand that the primary goals of the contest are to promote conservation and friendly, spirited competition.

....
Signature of Club Rep. Notary Public

....
Date Date

CHUM LINES

HAD PROBLEM WITH ATOM PLUG

I am a subscriber to the Long Island Fisherman and I have a small consumer problem with a well-known tackle company that maybe you could help me with. I am writing to your publication in hopes of letting other fishermen like myself know about Atom Manufacturing Co. and their regard for the consumer.

The problem is this. In November of 1976, I sent Atom back a new Atom Jr. popping plug that broke in half after one use, through no fault of mine. Enclosed with the plug was a letter of explanation and a request for a refund or replacement. I let three months pass with no reply before I wrote them another letter asking them what the problem was. Now, as of April, I've still no answer or replacement.

I feel that a well-known tackle company like Atom has the capital to stand behind their products. I would like to bring attention to this company because I am probably not the only one this has happened to. And also to compare. A short time after the Atom plug broke, I had a hook break on one of my Hopkins Hammered Spoons. I sent it back and in a short period of time, I received it back fully repaired, with a letter of apology.

I am not sure whether or not anything can be done about Atom Manufacturing Company, but I would like my voice to be heard anyway. Thank you for your consideration. *Frank Caruso, Floral Park, N.Y.*

We spoke with Bob Ponds on the phone about your problem, and he sincerely apologized. It seems the plant was closed down during the winter months, which resulted in the delay you experienced. We know Bob as one of the most reputable of tackle manufacturers, and he assured us that you will be receiving a replacement plug in the mail shortly. Scott S.

CLUB NEWS

HAS BOAT, WANTS CLUB

Mr. Sol Palitz, would like information on the existence of fishermen's clubs for men of his age (55-60) in his area. He owns a 32' 1977 Fiberglas New Yorker and is willing to share expenses on his boat with other interested fishermen who do not have access to a boat. Interested clubs please contact him at: Mr. Sol Palitz, 4132 Kings Hwy., Bklyn., N.Y. 11234

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The High Hill Striper Club of Bellmore, would like to announce that the membership rolls are open for some new members. Experienced or inexperienced surf fishermen only.

If you are interested and want more information, please contact Claude S. at 561-1135, any time after 2 P.M.

SUBSCRIBER SEEKS TO JOIN A SURF CLUB

I am a subscriber to the Long Island Fisherman. I recently moved to Coram and am interested in joining a fishing club. I enjoy all types of fishing, especially surf fishing. Please have a club contact me at: Santo C. Maggio, 28 Harrison Ave., Coram, N.Y. 11727, 516-736-2467.

WANTS TO JOIN CLUB IN BRENTWOOD

Joe LaRosa is interested in joining a fishing club in the Brentwood area. You can contact him at: 81 Wilson St., Brentwood, N.Y. 11717, telephone: 516-273-2719.

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LITTORAL SOCIETY WANTS FISH

The American littoral Society is collecting fish for environmental research and needs help from sport anglers. Representatives of nine species caught commonly in New Jersey waters are required.

The Society is cooperating in this project with the Sandy Hook Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, which needs specimens to test for the presence of heavy metals (cadmium, chromium, lead, etc.), petroleum hydrocarbons, and PCBs.

Anglers who are interested should be prepared to try to catch at least 8-10 fish of one species and then alert the Laboratory at Sandy Hook so that transportation of the fish to the Lab can be arranged.

The fish species sought are (with desired weight in parenthesis): cunner (any size), black drum (10-20 pounds), American eel (brackish water - 10-20 inches), fluke (summer flounder -- 1½-2½ lbs.), northern kingfish (¼-½ lbs.(, white perch (⅓-⅔ lbs.), northern puffer (blowfish -- ⅓-⅔ lbs.), sea robin (any size), and tomcod (⅓-⅔ lbs.).

Fish must be caught within the same general area (2-3 miles) within one to two days. They should be wrapped individually in plastic bags and refrigerated. The fish should not touch metal. The Sandy Hook Lab should then be phoned: 201-872-0200, ext. 55 or 59, to arrange for transportation of the fish. Or phone the Littoral Society at 201-291-0055.

The Lab will prepare the fish for analyses, to be conducted by the NMFS Biological Laboratory, Milford, Conn. Results of the study will be made public. In all, the Service will sample about 40 species, whose range is from Florida north to Cape Cod.

NAUTICAL HISTORY EXPERT TO SPEAK

Mr. Maurice Goldberger, well-known nautical collector and dealer in marine history, will speak at the Wednesday, April 27th meeting of the William K. Vanderbilt Historical Society at 8:00 P.M. at Dowling College in Oakdale, New York.

For over twenty years, Mr. Goldberger has been in the business of collecting and selling fine pieces of scrimshaw, nautical paintings and prints, and marine objects. He is known to be an expert in this field. At the meeting, he will speak on the nautical history of Long Island, and will also exhibit many of his finest pieces.

The meeting will be held in the Great Hall of the Learning Resource Center at Dowling. The general public is welcome.

L.I.B.B.A. ANNUAL BEACH CLEAN-UP

The Long Island Beach Buggy Association, organized in 1958, has announced scheduling for their **Annual Beach Clean-Up.**

All are welcome, and no permits will be required.

Come on out and meet some nice people and help us clean up the litter left on our priceless beaches! See you at 8:00 A.M. at **Cupsogue Beach,** Sunday, May 1st. Drive to the west end of Dune Road in Westhampton Beach and go to the west end of the parking lot. To repeat: **NO BEACH BUGGY PERMITS ARE REQUIRED** of those participating. Come help us keep these beaches open for your use.

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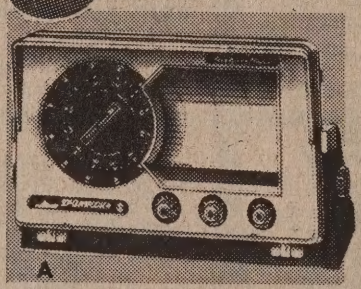

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Fish Talk with Dr. W.A. Muller

WEAKFISH

Cynoscion regalis

WHERE DO I BEGIN? We have reached that point in the season where I can begin to talk about what is probably my favorite fish. I don't know why the weakfish is my favorite fish, but the reasons are likely psychological. You know what I mean; the way some people like olives and others don't, or why some guys prefer blonds to brunettes. In any event, you're going to have to put up with a number of weeks of my ramblings about weakfish.

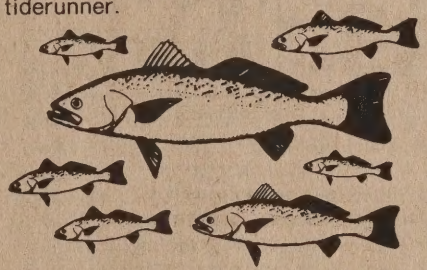
I REMEMBER MY FIRST GENUINE ENCOUNTER WITH THE WEAKFISH. I was barely 10-years-old, but I'll never forget it. The boat was parked at the mouth of a tidal creek and four eager anglers drifted grass shrimp with the incoming tide. The air was cold and crisp for a Memorial Day and sad to say, we caught no fish. But I did look over the side of the boat at one point to check the position of my cork float. There, in the crystal clear water, I saw a tiderunner casually swim beneath the boat. This lonely scout was soon followed by dozens more and then a flood of thousands. They were purple and yellow and silvery—what a sight!

WELL, THAT EXPERIENCE STIMULATED A HUNGER IN ME, a hunger for all available knowledge about weakfish. I began by asking local fishermen, and they told me stories of the "old days" when huge tideruners roamed the Peconics every spring. Next, I searched through library sources, but they were inadequate. My father is a fisherman too, and like the rest of us he bought magazines and books about fishing. Being the efficient, well-organized guy that he is, he saved these publications in mint condition.

OLD JOURNALS TELL MUCH ABOUT THE PAST. Some of these publications dated back to the late 1930s and 1940s, and they proved to be a "gold mine" of information, not only about weakfish, but all of Long Island's marine fishes. These authors discussed world's records, commercial landings, folklore, tackle and techniques, and seasons. Some of the publications tried to explain why the fish became alternately abundant and scarce. I was hooked! I wanted to catch weakfish like the ones that generated all the folklore and prompted one writer to say; "When the great grey hordes of weakfish round the bend at Montauk and enter Peconic Bay in the spring, men leave their families and offices without compunction and head for the eastern shore."

THERE WERE ALWAYS SOME WEAKFISH CAUGHT. In the years of my youth that followed, I caught weakfish. At times, we'd even catch a lot of weakfish, but they were small and the biggest fish that I saw caught during the 1950s and into the 1960s was about five pounds: and that fish was regarded as outstanding. Today, a five pound weakfish doesn't even draw a yawn.

WEAKFISH FOLKLORE. I'd tell my stories whenever I could find any patient ear. In fact, I downright bored a lot of folks. Those that weren't bored were convinced that I was crazy. After all, how could anyone believe that there were five to ten pound weakfish swimming around in our coastal ocean. The entire concept was too absurd to even consider. Nonetheless, almost every spring I plowed out into the waters of Peconic Bay and tried my best to catch a tiderunner.



BUT SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING. It was 1967. My oldest son was snapper fishing in late August in a creek that feeds Peconic Bay. He came running over to me with a long cyclindrical-shaped, purple and yellow fish still dangling from his snapper hook. "What's this thing, Daddy?" I looked, but I didn't believe what I saw! It was a six-inch weakfish! Then he caught another and another. Wow! Wait till next year!

1968 WAS A BUST. 1969 saw a few big fish, but nothing to brag about. In 1970, everything broke loose.I remember a headline in Jerry Kenny's column in the Daily News. Tiderunners taken in the Navesink River in New Jersey. I strutted like a peacock as I showed the column to my disbelieving cronies. The great grey hordes were back!

WEAKFISH, CYNOSCION regalis, BELONGS TO the family of marine fishes known as Sciaenidae. These fish are the drums and croakers. There are about 200 hundred species in this family and most inhabit temperate and tropical seas.

WEAKFISH AND SEATROUTS CONSIST of a group of fifteen species in the genus Cynoscion. These fish inhabit both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

WEAKFISH ARE NOISY! Most members, but not all, are capable of producing gruff, throaty sounds or croaks, hence the name croaker which is applied to several fish. These drumming or croaking sounds are produced by the vibrations of a special muscle that is found very close to the swim bladder. The vibrations of the muscle makes the sound and then the bladder acts as an amplifier.

ONLY THE MALE northern weakfish can produce this drumming sound, while both sexes of other species can produce the throaty sound.

WEAKFISH ARE CALLED MANY NAMES UP AND DOWN the Atlantic Coast. In New York they are called weakfish, tiderunners, yellowfins, and seatrout. In New England they'll more likely be referred to as "squet," which is short for squeteague. On the other hand, further to the south they may be imply called "trout." Here the ranges of **Cynoscion regalis** and **Cynoscion nebulosus** overlap and local fishermen will call both by the same simple name.

SIMILAR BODY PLAN. All the members of this group, from the diminutive silver seatrout to the giant white sea bass (up to 5 feet and 80 pounds) have long cylindrical bodies. The dorsal fin is separated into two portions. The front or spiny portion is separated by a deep groove from the rear or soft-rayed portion. In addition, all have long lateral lines and relatively short anal fins.

CYNOSCION regalis has an array of its own characteristics that distinguish it from others in the group. The colors tend to grade sharply from the dorsal area to the belly. The back may be grey to blue-grey or even green-grey. Shades lighten quickly towards the flanks and there is a liberal spraying of dots of many colors. These include: yellow, blue, purple, pink, orange, green, and silver. The belly is silvery white with splashes of yellow and orange, especially in larger specimens.

THE SILVERY APPEARANCE OF THE FISHES sides and belly are the result of abundant quantities of guanine. This material is deposited under the scales and reflects light like mica mineral. Perhaps you've noticed the glimmering, slimy sheen in the bottom of your boat after a successful weakfish trip.

WEAKFISH HAVE FANGS! The northern weakfish has two fangs in the roof of its mouth, but other members of the genus lack these canine-like teeth. The lower jaw protrudes beyond the upper portion and all members of the group have "weak mouths." That is, the support tissue that holds the jaw bones and other elements in place is thin and, therefore weak. Thus, hooked fish that the angler tries to "horse" to the boat will most likely be lost since mouth parts will be pulled apart.

Next week—Weakfish Life Cycle.

ASK THE CAPTAIN

OPINIONS & ANSWERS

by Capt. Ronnie Lepper

Michael McCarthy, Wantagh
I have two questions. First, This coming spring I am going to try for some early spring flounder off the Jones Beach piers and I am so confused about bait. I have read about every bait possible in the L.I. Fisherman which they recommend but I would like to know what you think I should use. I am going to be chumming with mussels and clams in a chum pot. I have my eyes on buying a new surf-casting reel for striped bass. It is the Olympic. I would like to know what do you think would be the best reel?

In response to question 1, for early spring flounder fishing I always preferred to use both mussels and bloodworms on a two hook rig. Early season flatties have a varied diet and will hit either bait with gusto. At certain parts of the tide they may prefer one or the other so you cannot go wrong by having both available. Clams seem to be more productive a little later in the season. Dr. Bill Muller's well written book on flounder fishing, distributed by the L.I.F., is an excellent informative piece of literature that can answer all of your now and later questions with well documented fact. As far as good surf fishing reels go, any good quality wide spooled reel that will hold at least 150 yards of 20 to 30 lb. test line will suffice. Conventional being easier to explain than spinning, is the reason I mentioned it first, with no prejudice meant. When I wound up my surf fishing days spinning was still a very new method. I therefore suggest that you talk to people in the field who use the different make reels and abide by their opinions. First hand advice is always the best.

Sidney Cohen, Melville
While in Fla. I picked up a copy of the South Fla. Fishing News and saw the below letter and response. Would it be possible to compile the same type of chart for our area?

Ever since I was 9 I've been fishing on the Newport Pier. Sometimes alone or with maybe my mother or friend (my father died when I was one year old). So, I have learned to fish the hard way.

But than I discovered your magazine. Thank God. So now I have almost everything straight. One big problem is in what tide and water to fish for certain fish. I am requesting that you put the tide and water each fish is caught in the article "Fish Of The Week." **Roger Trujillo**

After receiving your letter, I have gone back over various "Fish Of The Week" features and must admit that in many instances we did fail to mention the preferred tide. What we are in the process of doing now for you and other anglers who would like this information, is to compile a chart listing all local species and the preferred tide and baits to use.

Your fish of the week column put out weekly, showing the place, tide time of day, lures, bait, etc., is an excellent idea. I'll send it along to the editor for his evaluation. If anyone else is interested in this type of column, drop me a line as we at the L.I.F. are here to write about things you want to read.

John Levandoski
I am a subscriber to your magazine and I hope you can answer my question. My question is this: Over the past few years I have been shark fishing with my uncle out of the Shinnecock Inlet. The problem is when ever we are on our way home (the inlet) we never quite hit it on target. Many times we are several miles east of the inlet. Other times we may be west of it. We come back by reversing the compass readings. I realize our destination is off because of the drift. But how would you account for the drift? This question is not only confusing, but also wastes gas that could be used for other trips.

Your inquiry is one I hear often and my very best advice to you is to obtain a good quality Radio Direction Finder (RDF). Used properly this relatively inexpensive piece of equipment can not only save you untold dollars in wasted fuel, engine wear and prematurely grey hair, but may also save your life. Just reversing your course will never bring you back to your exact starting point unless you could hold a perfect course in a vacuum. Your drift problem stems from many areas namely wind and tide. At any time either one of these factors can change, changing your direction of drift and speed of drift. I have drifted east for miles only to have the wind become stronger than the tide and push me back to where I started. You also have compass error and holding error, very few people can hold within 5 degrees. I come across many people who swear by rule of thumb navigation, I'm not one of them. Clear days with good visibility are no problem. It's the haze and fog that start the trouble. You can easily find yourself 10 miles either side of your inlet on a 25 mile run with this type of navigation or worse on a shore wreck like the croda which claims its share of boats each season. I have seen many boats up on the west bar at Jones Inlet in a fog for the same reason.

William Ratsune, Rego Park, N.Y.
I have reservations for a tile fishing trip aboard the Tampa out of Sheepshead Bay this coming week and need some advice on tackle. I have heard many conflicting opinions, including the necessity of electric reels. Please advise me on tackle, as I am confused and do not wish to waste my time and money by going ill-equipped.

Start with a reel of 4/0 to 6/0 filled with 40 lb. wire, 50 lb. dacron, or a combination of both. Do not use mono as the stretch factor will be detrimental to your fishing. Any fairly stiff boat rod will suffice, preferably glass. Electric reels are not my idea of sportfishing and should only be used by commercial fishermen. A gimbel belt can be a tremendous asset when pumping a big tile up from 300 feet. Aside from tackle, make sure you bring along some warm clothes and rain gear; you can always stow them if not needed, but woe is you if you hit some foul weather and do not have them along. I'm sure the competent mates will advise you as to the best rigs and baits, as their reputation is built on successful fishing trips. Lastly, but super important, make sure you bring along a fair size cooler filled with ice to transport your catch home as more tile fish spoil due to burlap bag transportation than you can imagine. The boat may supply the ice; inquire before the trip.

Bertram Stern, Pelham. N.Y.
After reading about the weakfishing enjoyed throughout the Long Island area for the past five years, I have decided to try it this coming season. I am basically a fresh water fisherman, with little experience in salt water fishing other than a few snappers caught with my son. Without going into a vast explanation of lures, could you enlighten me on a few of the tried and true artificials to use this coming season. I would like to stay with light tackle spinning, using no greater than 10 lb. test.

As you have mentioned, weakfishing has produced a vast quantity of artificials yet a few shine above the rest. Small spoons, jigs, bucktails and plugs work well when adorned with a small strip of squid. By far the most productive and widely used has been the soft plastic shrimp in shocking pink, white, and under certain conditions, grey. This excellent lure tipped with a squid strip would be hard to beat.

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Portrait of a Mackerel

Mackerel fishing as we know it today is comparatively new. When I began fishing some fifty-odd years ago, there were few fishermen who realized the potential bonanza that awaited them. In those days, any mackerel caught aboard party or charter boats were nearly always incidental to other fishing.

There were, however, many private boat fishermen who did go mackerel fishing in springtime. They usually drifted over known mackerel grounds and flashed small mackerel jigs. They seldom had difficulty getting all the action they could handle; but as a rule, most anglers rarely bothered. Considering everything, though, mackerel fishing was never as popular as it is today.

I don't know the name of the experimenting angler who first used mossbunker chum, and thereby created a spanking new fishery, but my hat is off to him. He must have been an outstanding angler. The common mackerel (Scomber scombrus) is a handsome fish and extremely fit for the life of the open sea.

Anyone who has caught mackerel will agree with me—they are speed personified. Closely examine the next mackerel you catch and you will see that the reason for this is readily apparent. The body is elongated, solid and muscular, and tapered toward both ends, resulting in a perfect example of nature's idea of what stream-lining should be. Two small keels on each side of the peduncle, near the tail, give it perfect balance in the water. You may be sure, there is no waste motion when mackerel home in on a meal.

Scales are small; small enough so that the solid, muscular body feels smooth to the touch. A peculiar thing, though, is that there are no scales on the forward portion of the body. No doubt, this, coupled with the tiny scales, helps lessen drag when cutting through the water, or when chasing some bit of prey.

When captured, mackerel practically scale themselves. You will often see scales flying off in bursts of iridescence as the mackerel dangles from the hook in the bright sunshine. Certainly, no fisherman need ever scale a mackerel. The problem is to avoid getting them plastered over everything being handled.

The head is long and slender, its snout pointed. The mouth is moderately large and slightly oblique. As mackerel live in the upper layers of the sea, this angle undoubtedly aids when slurping plankton from the surface. (Nature thinks of everything!(

The teeth are small and in a single row on both jaws. The vomer (the bony plate set in the roof of the mouth) also has small teeth—as do the palatines (the bone on each side of the vomer.)

The fin structure is not outstanding. Evidently most of the power is achieved by the muscular body. The first dorsal contains about twelve slender, weak spines. The second dorsal and anal fins are small and similar to each other in design, each being followed by five finlets.

These finlets are characteristic of the mackerel family. The only difference being in the set amount on each species. For example, other mackerels, such as the bonito, Spanish mackerel, and wahoo, up to and including the largest of all, the giant tuna, have nine.

The tail is moderate in size and broadly forked. The ventral and pectoral fins are small. The root edge of the pectoral is black and is highly noticeable.

A pecularity of the common mackerel is that it has no air bladder. This means it must continuously keep on the move, else it will sink to the bottom like a stone. This must be rough on the fish, but now we can understand the reason for that muscular body.

Incidentally, at times fishermen catch a smaller version of the common mackerel which are known to fishery scientists as chubs, or thimble-eyes (Pneumatophorus colias). These are not small common mackerel as generally supposed, but are in a distinct category. How can you tell if you've caught one? Simple. Take note when you clean your smaller mackerel. If the fish has an air bladder, it's a thimble-eye.

When I was a kid, thimble-eyes were fairly common in Long Island and New Jersey waters, but I haven't seen too many in recent years—although I did catch three one morning last summer in Shinnecock Canal while snapper fishing. There is no difference in eating quality.

The color of the common mackerel is fairly uniform. It varies only in slight shading. I believe this may be due to the brightness of the day and may be an attempt at camouflage. Mackerel caught on dull days appear to have darker shadings. The color is bluish-black above, with darker wavy streaks lying across the back. No doubt this is another attempt by nature at camouflage—this time to duplicate the action of the surface water, making the mackerel less vulnerable to attack by sea birds, etc. The tail and pectorals are dusky and—if you're interested—the lining of the adominal cavity is black.

Adults feed on plankton—as do the infants. But the larger fish vary this diet with fish eggs and the young of other fish, regardless of species. In this respect, they are evidently their own worst enemy.

In the days of plenty, enormous schools of migrating spawn-laden mackerel formed at Cape Hatteras during late March or early April. Some of these schools would be 100 miles long and 20 wide. There seemed to be no end to the supply, but since our "detente-happy" foreign fishing fleet has gotten into the act, these vast amounts are now mere shadows of their former self. (When will we wake-up?)

This migration comes to an end when the fish arrive at the northern reaches of New England. They are sometimes found off Labrador, but spawning has probably been completed by that time.

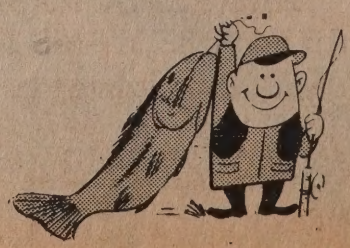
In our area, spawning takes place during mid-May and can extend to early July throughout New England waters. This ritual takes place at night when the water temperature reaches 45 to 61 degrees. Eggs are buoyant and are about 1/25th of an inch immediately before hatching. Incubation varies. It can be four days at 60 to 62 degrees, or five days at 55 degrees. A sudden influx of cold water can destroy billions of eggs—and when that happens, we suffer the pangs of a mackerel famine several years later.

Where the fish spend late summer is uncertain. They begin the return migration sometime in mid-October, give or take a week or two. They regroup and return, using approximately the same path as in springtime. By winter, they have arrived off Cape Hatteras.

It is interesting to note that no mackerel has ever been reported south of Cape Hatteras. Occasionally, they are taken on the Georges Bank in winter, but these are thought to be strays from the main schools. They probably winter on the Continental Shelf, but this is not certain.

American commercial fishermen have netted mackerel to eight pounds, but the average taken by sportfishermen is probably between one and two pounds. On most days, the lucky angler can consider a three-pounder a potential pool-winner. Occasionally, a mackerel is taken that will go four pounds, but these are few and far between. I've caught but one this size in my lifetime.

A mackerel oddity is that fish in one school tend to be of the same size; they will seldom vary more than one inch. Therefore, the trick—all luck, of course,—is to locate the school with the largest fish.



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Surf Side

with John Fritz

SLINGING LEAD
Part II

To continue where we left off in Part I, I hope the thoughts put forth in these two articles will enable you to increase your score this coming season. In view of the apparent decline in the striped bass population, I urge you to release whatever fish you will not put to good use. At any rate, if '76 was a forecast of things to come, knowledge of fishing techniques coupled with persistence will be sorely tested in the years to come.

The size and type of hook, as you can well imagine, can range from size 1/0 bait savers used with worms on school bass, to long-shanked 8/0 hooks sometimes used on monster blues when fishing cut bait. Most anglers use 5/0 and 7/0 hooks. Personal preference often dictates your final choice.

Instead of rigid guidelines, I'll simply relate a few instances where I feel a specific hook is the better one to use.

If there is a question about the size of the hook to use, choose the smaller size, as long as the business end is able to protrude from the bait selected. At times, the fish are finicky and, at any sign of something amiss, will reject the offering. Large fish can be brought to gaff on small hooks, as long as you play the fish carefully and the hooks are not weakened by rust.

When fishing with live eels, I find the short-shanked tuna hook sized 4/0 to 6/0 preferable. This hook, while of sufficient strength to hold the largest bass, is small enough to allow the smaller eels to swim without too much hindrance. These same hooks can also be used when fishing strips of cut bait. If bluefish are the quarry, a 4-inch length of wire leader should be attached to the hook. While this leader can be fashioned from the nylon-covered stranded stainless steel wire, plain piano wire is more dependable. After a toothsome blue chews on the coated wire, it becomes frayed and can be bitten through.

If cut bait is to be used as the attraction, any bass hook is permissible as long as the hook is small enough to be hidden in the bait with just the point protruding where it can stick the fish without hindrance. The size hook is dictated by the size bait used and then by the size of the expected quarry.

In order to keep the hook positioned correctly in cut bait, carry a spool of cotton thread with you. By wrapping the thread several times around the bait, keeping the skin to the outside, it will stay covering the hook for a longer period of time. The hook point should be peering out of the fleshy part of the fold where it can readily stick the unsuspecting taker. This is especially true when using previously frozen baits such as mackerel or bunker, which tend to fall apart when thawed out.

When using sandworms for bait, it is often desirable to thread the body of the worm up the shank of the hook and if possible, on up the leader. This can prove difficult when using the standard-eyed hooks and although they are hard to find these days, the old straight-shanked hook with the leader wrapped to the shank of the hook, is perfect for the purpose. Some of these hooks have a pin secured inside the wrapping with the point exposed and facing up the leader where the head of the worm can be impaled, thereby holding the worm securely in place. Charlie's Tackle in Lindenhurst had a small supply of these hooks a while ago, but whether he still any or if they are available at all on the Island is unknown.

The Eagle Claw bait saver is a good second choice when using worms. The barbs built into the shank of the hook prevent the worms from slipping down and bunching up at the bend. These hooks will rust after exposure to the salt water, so if there is any doubt about its dependability, throw it away. The cut in the shank for the barb readily weakens and I've seen them snap off under the strain of fighting a good fish.

Before we leave the subject of hooks remember that a sharp hook will penetrate quicker and easier than a hook with a blunted point. Carry a piece of emery cloth, a small file or a sharpening stone to touch-up the point before using. Make sure you file the front and back of the point, not the sides, as this will not create a knife effect.

When fishing for striped bass and bluefish, the variety of possible baits is extensive and limited only by what you can catch or afford.

Live eels are probably the most popular bait for hooking that trophy bass, although fresh bunker is accounting for some impressive catches. Some anglers go by the theory, big bait-big fish, but there is a limit to the size eel you should use. I prefer to use smaller eels, say between nine to twelve inches. I can appreciate the fact that the tackle dealers do not like to measure each one, so I more or less take what I get.

The eels can be hooked in any of three parts of the body—the head, the middle of the back, or the tail. If you prefer the head, push the point of the hook through the bottom of the lower jaw and out one eye, being careful not to hit the brain.

The advocates of the tail-hooking method feel there is less likelihood of the eel becoming tangled this way.

If you choose to hook the eel through the back, do not pierce the backbone. Those who prefer this method argue that this is where the bass will strike the eel. Since the hook is placed where the hit will occur, this eliminates the indecision of whether to let the bass run with the eel before setting the hook.

All the bass I've taken with eels have been with the eel hooked through the head, but in all fairness, I have not used the other methods on too many occasions. Whichever method is best, is for you to decide, if fishing two rods, try different ways and see which is better for you.

Sandworms , while mostly used in the spring for school bass, have proved deadly on big bass from June through the summer in such places as Split Rock and Breezy Point. As stated before, you can thread the worms up the shank of the hook, but there is another way used with success by Al Buccola. He hooks a couple worms behind the head and lets the rest of the body hang free. In the head of the sandworm is

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a hard band, somewhat like gristle, which will hold securely without breaking the worm in half. When Al demonstrates this way of hooking the worms, he twirls the rig in swift circles around his head in order to show how well the worms stay on the hook without breaking. Naturally, fresh worms hold up better than those which are several days old and have become mushy.

Bloodworms, while more durable than their fragile cousins, are not as popular when fishing for the larger bass. We use them mostly in April when the schoolies begin arriving. Bloods tend to run in smaller sizes than the sandworms and I've purchased some that are no thicker than #8 spaghetti. For this reason, and because the price of worms is up around the $2 mark, more fishermen are switching to skimmer clam, mackerel, or bunker as bait. All of these baits have taken cow bass, while the latter two are favorite baits for blues.

There is one regular along the Cedar Beach front who uses skimmer clam almost exclusively and does a fine job catching bass during the late spring and summer. These clams will produce fish when many locals, yours truly included, are not scoring too well. A bushel of fresh skimmer can be shucked and frozen into quantities required for each trip to the beach. As mentioned before, with the frozen cut bait, a few wraps of string will prevent the glob of clam from flying off during the cast. Of course, if you whip the rod when casting, you will have trouble holding any of these soft baits on the hook.

Frozen bunker and mackerel have been used with success to catch bass and blues from the surf. This is a known fact but what is not as well known is that fresh dead bunker have been making more impressive scores over the past few seasons. The trick here is to have a supply available for each outing. During the last few summers, snagging bunker has been possible in Jamaica Bay, the fishing piers at Jones Beach, and most north shore harbors. Naturally, a new supply will have to be caught before each outing, which does present a problem if time is scarce. These fresh bunker can be fished either whole or cut into chunks or fillet. Some surfmen on the western end of the south shore do very handily slinging whole bunker from the jetties. The method, from the information I can gather, is to cast the bunker unadorned with any hardware other than the hook and slowly retrieve.

Years ago shedder crab was a successful bait used during summer nights for bass. The popularity of crab has diminished during these past years of scarcity, but with the comeback of the blueclaw, there is no reason why it shouldn't become a common bait once again. Peel off the top shell and break off the claws and arms where they join the body. Cut into quarters, halves if they are small, but if you are doing your own catching, the small ones should have been thrown back. Pass the point of your hook into one of the empty sockets and position the hook so that the point is not hindered from doing its duty.

Many years ago lobster tails were a popular bait for striped bass, but I don't think we have to go into that. There are several other baits which will take striped bass and blues. In reality, the list is as long because the appetites of these two game fish is great: snapper, squid, spearing, calico crab, tapeworm, etc., etc.

Although success can be achieved during daylight in the spring and fall, better bass fishing is usually a nighttime proposition. The correct bait, a knowledge of your equipment, warm clothes and a good companion, are the ingredients for a pleasant evening on the beach. There will be no shrill ring of the phone to startle you out of your chair, but hopefully a jarring strike as that unseen cow finds your feeble offering in all that darkness.

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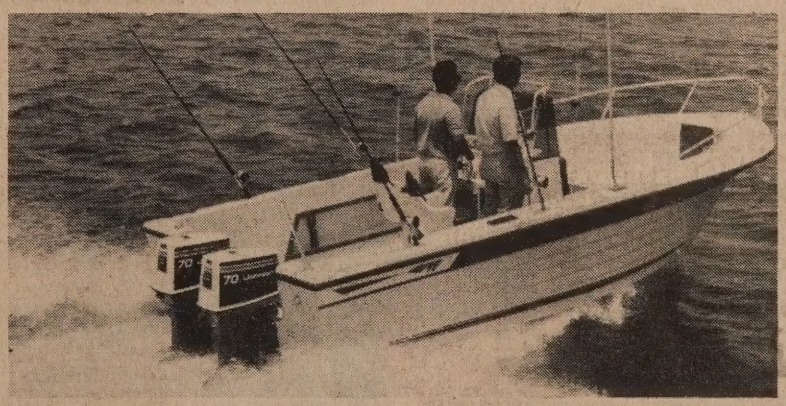

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WEAKFISHING

Part One—Artificials

by Capt. Ron Onorato

After many years of prolonged absence, the weakfish has filled a big gap in Long Island's fishery when it started its big resurgence in population in the early 70's. The big runs of fish in Great South Bay and Peconic Bay, and smaller pockets of fish on the North Shore gave fishermen a shot at some light tackle action that was missing for so many years.

Now it appears that the weakfish population is once again in trouble, and this time the fault lies with us and not natural conditions. Last year, there was a good early buildup in Peconic Bay. All indications were that there was going to be a very fine early summer fishery of weaks. However, the bottom fell out in many areas, and fishing was erratic in many places. There were some fine catches, but not the consistant ones we have been experiencing for the past five years. Perhaps the best weakfish action on Long Island occurred on the North Shore, around the east side of Hempstead Harbor, near Matinecock Point, in early June. For one straight week, big slugs of weakfish churned the surface in the early morning hours and ate everything in sight. This wasn't publicized, and many fishermen missed out on the action. About the best thing that can be said for last year's fishing was the size of the fish taken. The fish were exceptionally large along their range, and several new world record fish were taken, including several in the teens.

This article will be divided into two parts; the first will deal with the use of artificial lures as a method of taking the weak, and the other will deal with the use of natural baits, and an added dimension, the use of live baits for tide runner yellowfins.

The weakfish is a voracious, fast swimming predator, that will feed on all sorts of bait fish and natural baits. It will range from a few inches off the bottom, or it will thrash the surface when it goes on the feed. Its readiness to accept many types of artificial lures makes it popular to those of us who enjoy casting light lures. Once hooked, the fish puts up a spirited battle, far superior than that of a bass of the same size. The fish is also quite receptive to a properly presented fly, and the salt water fly fisherman looks forward to the challenge each year.

The weakfish is a highly migratory species that arrives in Long Island waters around the end of April. The fish continue to stream up the beaches, and by the middle of May, are in their usual haunts such as Great South Bay and Peconic Bay, and many of the numerous smaller bays and creeks that dot the entire South Shore. In some years, patches of fish will roam the Sound and provide fine fishing in Oyster Bay and areas around it. The fish will feed actively in the bays and Sound through the summer and gradually filter out of the bays with the approach of autumn.

Ray Bennett with nice weak taken on plastic shrimp.

Ray Bennett nets big weakfish taken on light spinning tackle.

The height of light tackle casting for weaks is basically limited to the month of May. Though some fish are taken all summer long, the great percentage of the catch occurs in early to mid May.

The weakfish is not quite as selective as the bass in his choice of lures, but there are several that have been consistent producers in the past. Actually, any sort of small, sub-surface lure that imitates a tiny bait fish will be effective.

Leading the list of most popular, as well as perhaps the most effective

weakfish lure, is the plastic shrimp. Grass shrimp is perhaps the most effective natural bait around for weakfish, and the plastic shrimp is meant to be a simulation of the grass shrimp.

The shrimp is basically a plastic lead jig head, molded into the shape of a shrimp. Although there are many different types on the market, the Lupo plastic shrimp is perhaps the best type on the market. This lure comes in a variety of colors, with pink being the most effective. Other colors such as yellow and blue, as well as grey, will all work with varying degrees of success.

The plastic shrimp is at its best where the water isn't too deep and the current that fast. When the weakfish move onto the shallow flats of Great South Bay, this lure is very effective. The lure itself is a light lure, weighing 1/3 or 1/2 ounces in weight and should be worked as close as possible to the bottom. The best way to do this is by casting ahead of your drifting boat and letting the lure settle to the bottom. Incidentally, except on the windiest of days, the prescribed method for weakfishing is drifting. When the fish first move into the bays, they are found mostly in the deeper channels, and the drifts are quite short. However, when the fish arrive on the flats, the drifts are a little bit longer, as the fish are not concentrated into such tight areas. Now, after the lure settles to the bottom, begin a slow, steady retrieve, bouncing it on the bottom occasionally. By casting ahead of the drift, you can get a good feel of the lure and bottom, and this is important. If bouncing the bottom doesn't produce, speed up the retrieve a little. With a little experimentation, you will find the right combination.

In most cases, the weakfish doesn't take the shrimp with a jarring hit, but just a steady pull. Once he feels that he's been hooked, then he moves into high gear. If the naked shrimp isn't producing all that well, don't be afraid to add on a tiny sliver of fresh squid to it. The scent of the squid will often induce the fish into striking the shrimp. Blue and grey colors seem to work best around dawn and on cloudy days, while the pink and yellow colors work best when the sun is bright and sky clear.

The lure that was quite popular in years gone by, is the standard bucktail jig. Though this lure is still quite effective, it is not as popular as it once was. This, too, was meant to imitate the grass shrimp, and was a reasonable facsimile. The bucktail is worked in a manner similar to that of the shrimp, and is most effective in white color, with 1/4 or 1/3 ounce sizes the most effective.

When the fish are really deep and the current is pretty quick, there are several metal lures or "tins" as they were once known, that will do the trick. In the fast rips and tides of Peconic Bay, the old favorite there was a one-ounce diamond jig, with a single hook adorned with a strip of squid. This got down deep in a hurry and did quite well when the fish were near the bottom. Today, the 1/2 or 3/4 ounce Hopkins or Kastmaster lures are the most widely used tin lures and are effective at times. They resemble

(Continued on next page.)

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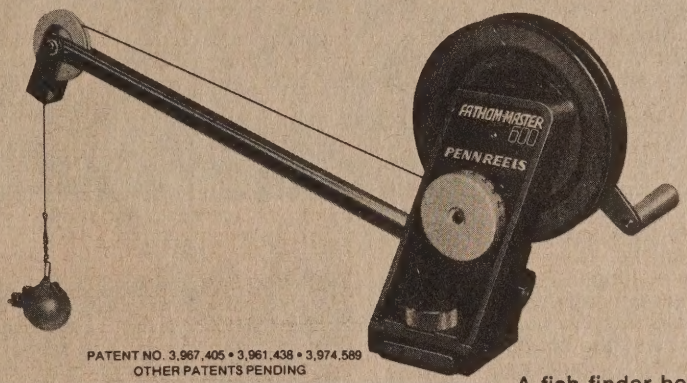

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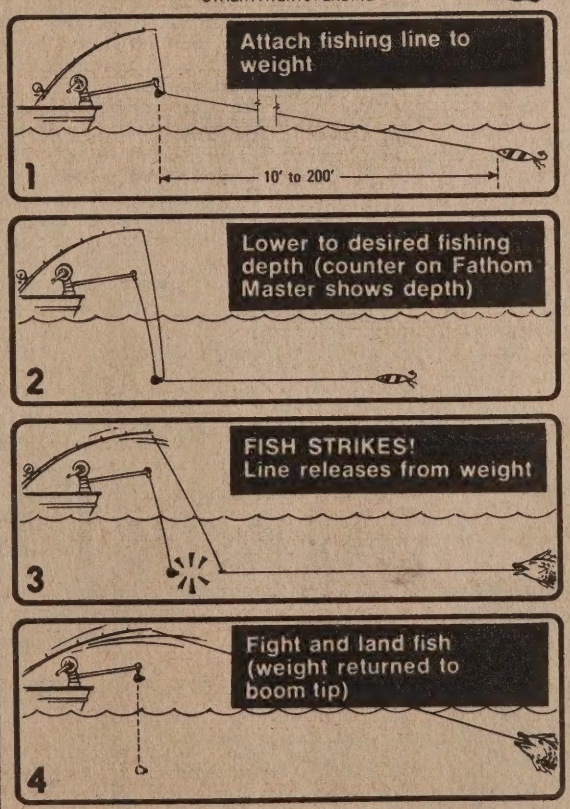
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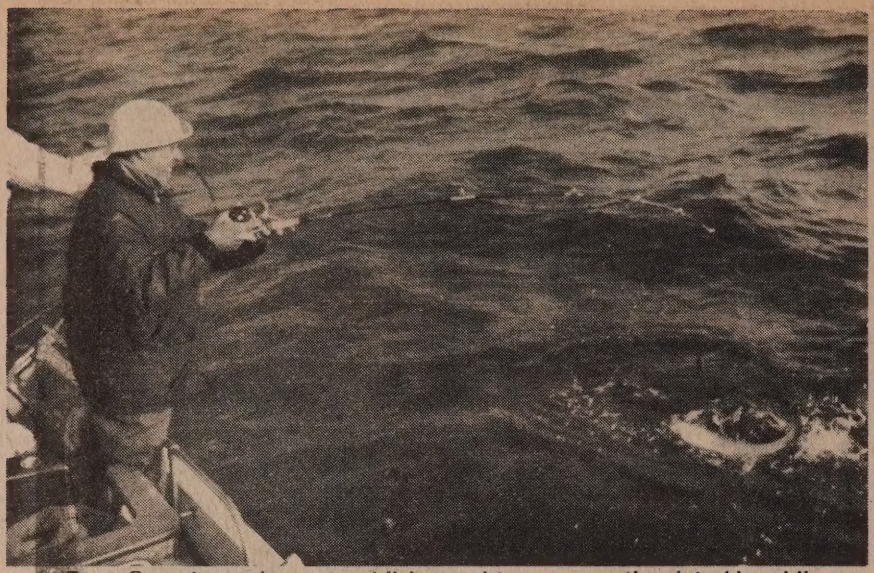


Tony Onorato works on weakfish caught on conventional tackle while drifting sandworms.

some of the flashier bait fish, such as the spearing or tiny bunkers.

Other lures that will work with varying degrees of success include the Rebel sub-surface swimming plug, and tiny Creek Chub deep swimmers. Spoons of all sizes and shapes are really quite effective, but their light weights often make them difficult to cast. All along, I have stressed that the lures should be kept as small as possible when casting for weakfish; however, in the past few years, there have been a number of huge weakfish that have fallen to the huge bunker spoons trolled along the beach that were meant for bass. As we shall see, big weakfish do have a liking for live bunkers too.

Because most of these lures used are fairly light in weight, light spinning tackle or baitcasting outfits are the most effective rigs to use. Any one-handed spinning outfit, with a matching reel of six or eight pound line is about right for casting. Baitcasting outfits are once again emerging on the scene after a period of absence, and are claimed by their users, to give better control over the lures than the spinning outfits. They are a little difficult to get used to at the start, but become easier with time.

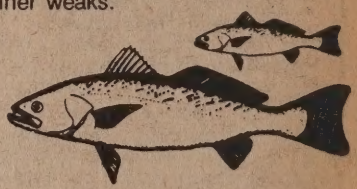
One thing that you should do when using light line, is re-tie the lure after every fish. Six pound mono is light as it is, and any nicks or abrasions on the line will weaken it further. Shrimps and bucktails are best when tied directly to the terminal end of the mono, with no snaps or swivels. You can add a short shocker leader of 15 or 20 inches of a little heavier mono, say 10 or 12 pound test if you feel uncomfortable with the lighter mono, but don't go heavier than that or you will reduce the action of the light lures.

For the most part, you will be drifting over the flats or in the channels of Great South Bay, or in the rips of Peconic Bay near Jesseps Neck. Whenever conditions allow, drift and cast up ahead of the drifting boat. This may be difficult with the increased boat numbers on these limited grounds, but is best for locating the fish.

Weakfish, like other game fish, feed more actively around sunrise than during the day. If you want your best shot at the fish, try to be fishing at first light. More often than not, the weaks will be feeding close to the surface. Once the boats arrive, the fish break up and scatter and regroup where the traffic isn't that heavy.

In Great South Bay, the fish usually show up in the deeper cuts near Ocean Beach and near Buoys 4 and 5. The fish will then fan out to the flats and can be found anywhere in the bay. If the fish are not in their usual haunts, the best thing to do is get a good early start around dawn, and cruise the bay looking for the fish finning near the surface. Many of the bays and creeks near Zachs Bay off Jones Beach have some pretty good populations early in the season. Lately, the fish have been showing up in pretty decent numbers along the North Shore around Oyster Bay Harbor, and along the east side of Hempstead Harbor, near Matinecock Point in early June, and have been most welcome as replacements for the school bass that are no longer present in these areas.

Next week, we will look at the use of live and natural baits for the big tide runner weaks.



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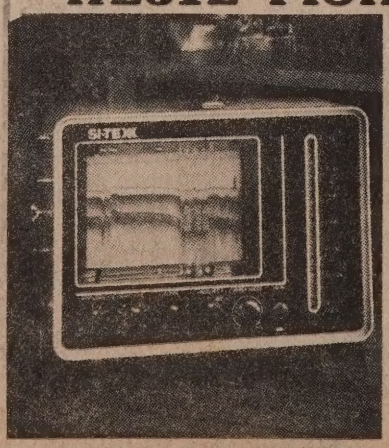

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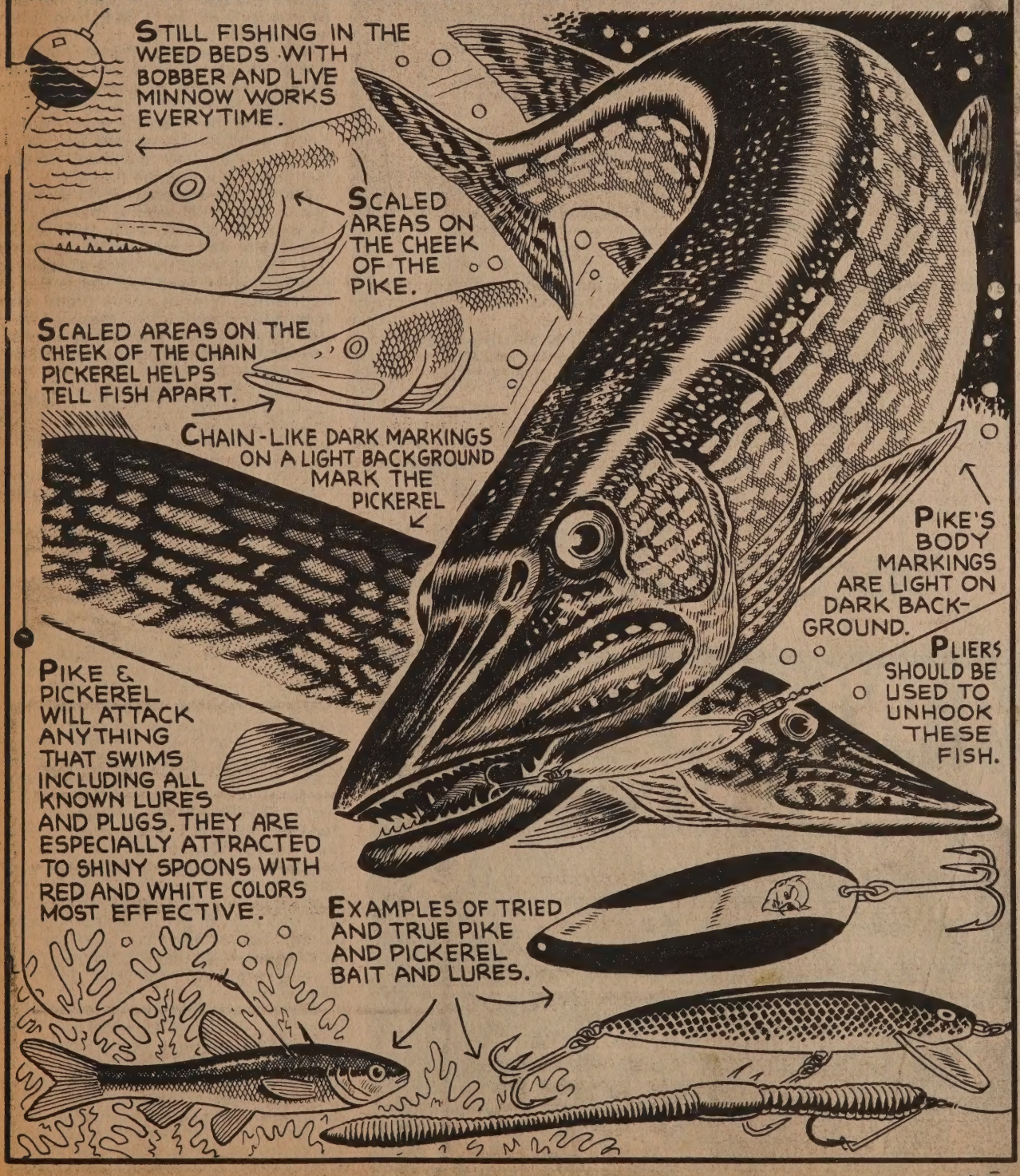
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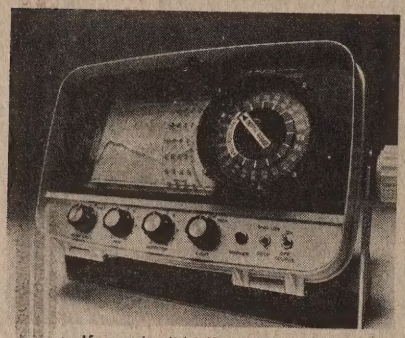

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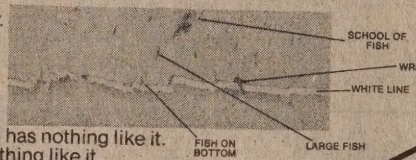

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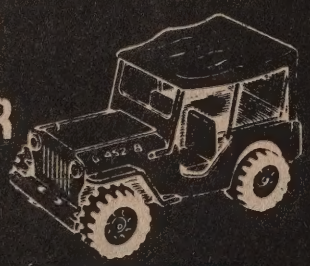

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Captain Ron of the **Julie III** called to say that his boat is in the water now and he's booking for the '77 season for bass, blues and all bottom.

The **Viking Skipper II** reports that the end of this past week produced the best fishing, with some anglers taking home two bags of cod, but these were the exception rather than the rule. Captain Bud is fishing from 20 minutes east of the Point to the Southwest Ledge. Fishing is improving all around.

Captain Art Munday of the **Darius II** called with great excitement, that on Saturday the charter of Bill Witchey Sr. and friends had 54 cod off Block Island with five of these fish over 20 pounds and the balance from 4 to 9 pounds. The hook and line action on cod has apparently busted itself loose. Art says that he and Capt. Charlie Nappie will be running for cod through May and can take parties up to 10.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the **Julie III** and four members of the New York City Transit Authority led by Freddie Johnson caught 13 cod while fishing out of Frisbee one day this past week.

Captain Paul Sundberg of the charter boat **Montauk**, called to say that the boat made an excellent maiden voyage on Sunday. Five anglers from Pennsylvania filled up two wheelbarrows with 41 codfish that average 8 to 15 lbs., largest 18 lbs. The hot cod action has been in 70 feet of water between the Sub Buoy and Southwest Ledge, which is less than an hour's ride for the newly-repowered boat. Paul also reported that the boats fishing the same area on Thursday and Friday did a real number on the fish. The water temperature is only 39 to 40 degrees, which is low for this time of year. The cod usually start biting on hook and line best when the water temperature is 42 degrees, so it looks like the fishing will get even better yet. Paul said that the new sound equipment for attracting sharks has been installed, and he will start fishing for sharks with this innovative new "chumming" method in the near future. For those of you who want to get in on the fantastic spring run of cod that Montauk is having, Paul said that this Saturday and Sunday are still open. So give the skipper a call.

Captain John Sweetman of the charter boat **Ebb Tide** said that the cod have moved inshore and the best spring run of cod Montauk has had in several years is in the making. Cod are being taken at the Sub Buoy, 20-Minutes-East, the Southwest Ledge and the Hooter Buoy off Block Island. The fish are big, with many twenty pounders and a few funkers over 30. The cod action started Thursday in these inshore areas and has been very

consistent since. The Captain said that he expects the codfishing to hold up at least until the striped bass arrive in a few weeks. There are also plenty of flounder in the 1 to 2 pound range being taken in Montauk Lake and they are just starting outside along Gin Beach and the traditional areas around Shagwong.

Captain Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devilfish** reported that the haul-seiners loaded up on big Boston mackerel on the south side beaches on Monday and Tuesday, and he took a few on hook and line Wednesday, so the sharks shouldn't be too far behind. Porbeagle sharks are usually best around the full moon of May, so it looks like conditions will be right for somegood fishing for these monsters in the first two weeks of the month. Warren confirmed the good codfishing around the Sub Buoy and 20-Minutes-East area. The setlines are still doing a number on the cod, but this is expected to change when the doggies move in and provide a little competition.

Captain Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** said they had some real good days with the codfish during the week and it looks like the spring run of inshore cod is on in earnest. On Monday and Wednesday, ten cod in the 40 lb. range were taken each day. On Sunday, 30 fishermen accounted for 140 cod ranging up to 35 lbs. Friday's score was 80 cod for 12 fishermen, with a few blackfish and mackerel mixed in the catch. The action has definitely been improving considerably.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** called to say that the marina's boats have been having some pretty decent action with codfish around the Southwest Ledge area. It looks like an excellent run of spring cod is in the making. Nice flounder up 2 lbs. are also being taken in quantity in Montauk Lake.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand at Promised Land reports on Thursday and Friday catches of 20-60 flounder per boat came in. The fishing was done in the buoy 8 area on mussels.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bay View Fishing Station** tells us that the flounder fishing is really super with lots of fish being taken at Cedar Point and the buoy 4 area. Brooklyn angler Joe Meitchik bagged a 4 pounder on Saturday, though most fish are around 3 pounds. WOW! This is all on worms and mussel chum. If you're only interested in smaller fish of the 2½ lb. class, try the Barcelona Banks. There are lots of these little 2½ pounders around says Chris. The fishing is really super with incoming working best.

SHINNECOCK

The Shinnecock Chartermen's Ass'n of Hampton Bays has been reactivated. Membership has been limited to only experienced, licensed captains with documented boats in top shape. The boats are fully equipped for inshore and

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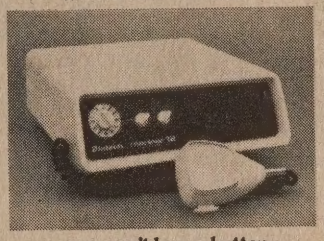

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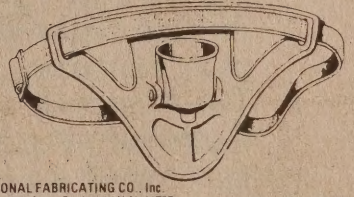
FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.



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LAST WEEK'S WINNER:
There is once again no winner this week for our contest, so next week's winner shall receive $30 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for 2 aboard a boat of his/her choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:
237-ETH

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

If the magic finger above isn't pointing at a 32-page booklet, then you aren't a subscriber to The Long Island Fisherman. If you were, the first part of The Fisherman's Package would have been stapled into the centerfold of this magazine. It contained the high tide tables for the year, $26 worth of Funny Money for receiving discounts on merchandise, discount blanks for saving money on classified advertisements, and a photo submission blank to get a photo of you and your catch published in The Fisherman. You also won't receive the second part of The Fisherman's Package, which will be inserted in the May 26th issue of L.I.F., which is a booklet containing a whole mess of discount coupons to save money off your fare on open boats, charter boats, bait & tackle, marine electronics and more! But it isn't too late—subscribe before July 1st, 1977 and you will also receive both parts of The Fisherman's Package, including your official Subscriber's Club Card! As a subscriber, you will also be eligible to win either a Mako 20 or a Grady-White Center Console in the First Annual L.I.F./Starfish Marine Fishing Contest. Full details of this new contest will appear in next week's issue of The Fisherman.

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offshore work and all tackle is provided. We are informed that the Captains have an average of ten years experience fishing the Peconic and Shinnecock Bays and the offshore big game grounds. They have been quietly catching their share of flounder and mackerel and are now anticipating a great Peconic Bay weakfish run.

Captain Clark Bellows, Jr., said that the **Captain Clark Boats** did very well with the flounder during the week, but slowed up somewhat on the weekend. On Friday, 11 anglers had 130 flounder, and the fishing seems to be best on the good weather days. The fish are now in the deeper water east of Buoy 8 and most of the fish are being taken on sandworms. The Captain reported that one of the local pound nets had almost 200 pounds of porgie on one day, and a gillnetter took 600 pounds of weakfish 4 to 8 pounds; so the action in the Peconics should really start jumping in the next few weeks.

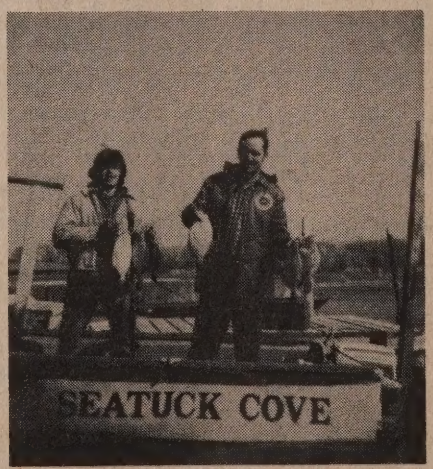
HAMPTON BAYS

Corr's Fishing Station tells us that the flounder in Shinnecock Bay remains steady this past week. Boats are averaging 25 fish per, from ¾ to 2½ pounds with Mr. Boker boating a 3 pounder this past week. Best area is the Basket Area and around Red 34 in front of the station. Flood is the best with mussels or bloodworm baits with plenty of mussel chum.

John at **Bradley's Fishing Station** reports that the flounder fishing was fair up to the storm, with flounder in the 1½ to 2 lb. range being taken on worms and mussels around the bay.

Frank's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing at buoy 17 and below. On Friday, Mr. and Mrs. George Goth and James Alsten of Garden City Park took 78 flounder on mussels at buoy 17 up to 2 lbs.

Tonys Fishing Station reports that on Friday Bob Bill and friends from Bohemia had 75 flounder at buoy 17.



Paul Boris and Walter Eckhoff with their catch of 29 flounder taken on bloodworms and mussel chum on the incoming tide by the Westhampton Bridge. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Marina.

MORICHES BAY

Silly Lily Fishing Station reports that Thursday saw great flounder fishing as evidenced by anglers Ernie Klug and Phil Dundie of Smithtown who had 54 keeper flounder up to 1¾ pounds taken at buoy 42. The fish are big and you MUST chum. On Saturday skiff catches ran up to 40 fish per. The other days of the week were fair and those who stayed put and chummed heavy came back with decent catches.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing east of buoy 43. Average catch is 35-40 fish, up to 1½ lbs. on worms and mussels.

Cerullo Bros. reports good flounder fishing at buoy 24 and at the Red House, on worms and clam or mussel chum. The boats are averaging 30-40 fish from 1½ to 2 lbs.

Hi-Way Fishing Station reports that George Murray fished for four hours at buoy 52 and took 29 flounder before running out of worms. Milo Mestina took 98 flounder, fishing buoys 42 and 43 with worms and mussels.

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station had a lot of boats out, particularly on Saturday and they found flounder best at buoy 17 from mid week through Saturday, fish going up to 2 pounds with zero to 40 flounder per skiff. Baits were mussel, worm and skimmer clam with chumming a must. Three hours before the high worked best. Gary reports mackerel on the outside in 80 feet of water, and weaks are anticipated shortly due to lots of grass shrimp in the water now.

WEST SAYVILLE

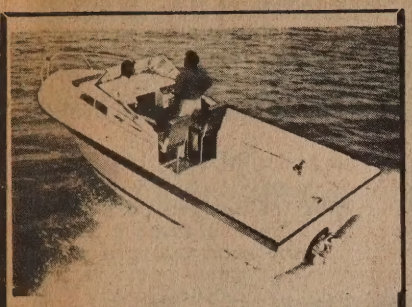
South Bay Fishing Station reports a lot of flounder being caught up to 2¾ pounds, averaging 20 fish per skiff. Local gill netters are getting weakfish and many anglers are getting run-offs and losing lines while flounder fishing. Off Heckscher's Nicholl Pt., at the mouth of Great River, should be worked with bloodworms, mussels and skimmers plus plenty of chum. Looks like a strong weak season approaching.

EAST ISLIP

Don at **Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle** tells of good flounder fishing at West Channel between buoys 4 and 5 on sandworms, bloodworms and mussel, heavy on the chum. The flood is best. Macks in the Whistler area up to 2 pounds, 55 feet of water.

OAK BEACH

The Store reports that on Wednesday the flounders really busted lose as did the eels. The Sore Thumb is also producing flounder, fish from 1½ pounds and up on sand and bloodworms and mussel chum. On Wednesday, three stripers were taken by a surf fisherman at Cedar Beach fishing worms a few inches off the bottom. Two fish were



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Jack Palanski and friends with pails of flounder they caught on the Lady Ann on April 17th.

tagged and released, and a five pounder was kept. Weaks are stumbling into pound nets and mackerel are at the Whistler and slightly S/SW. Nice big mackerel. Try the pier and beaches on either side just north of **The Store** for flounder and eels.

BAY SHORE

Smokey's Bait and Tackle reports plenty of mackerel on the outside between the head buoy and the Whistler. Joe of Brentwood on his "Betty K" had a load of macks both Thursday and Friday in 55 feet of water. One weakfish of 8 pounds was also captured by Joe on a Salty Dog type lure in the lighthouse area. Flounders remain decent with West Channel working best with plenty of chum and mussel and worm baits. Incoming tide is working best as is both sides of the high. FLASH—LIF reader Bill Rogers, after 20 years of fishing the surf and jetties is about to kick the sand off his waders as he is buying his first boat and will be doing his thing afloat now.

CAPTREE

Captain Carl Bauer of the **Captain Whittaker** reported that the flounder fishing was good on Saturday with over 200 fish taken, and there have been definite signs of improvement in the action all week. The fish are on the move and are heading for the Fire Island Inlet. Best action has been around the lighthouse, the inlet and West Channel. A few boats have even been fishing down by the Sore Thumb. Last of the ebb tide has been best, but there is a nice pick through the flood. The fish are all still big with very few throw-backs.

Captain Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen** said that the mussel beds around the Lighthouse and the State Channel and along the South Beach west of the Lighthouse, have been producing good catches of flounder around the change of tide. Saturday was very good, with some boats taking more than 100 fish on a single drop of the anchor. For some reason, the area bombed out on Sunday. On Sunday, the Queen took 200 flounder for 20 anglers on the north end of West Island around buoy 5. The fish are on the move, following the drop-offs along the edge of the channel. Buoy 12 in East Channel has also been producing some good catches. This is the area known as "Clam Pond" to the local sharpies. The fish are still large and range up to 2 lbs., and a few double-headers are being taken daily. The water is very clear and

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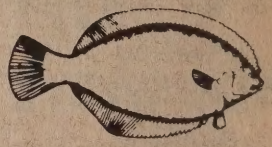

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warming up, as anglers are starting to take both sundials and sea robins. Some weakfish were reported taken in the Fire Island pound nets.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the charter boat **Lady Ann** called to say that the flounder fishing can now be rated as good. On Monday, 170 flounder were taken; 211 on Saturday, and the score for Sunday was 115 flounder despite the wind and the rain. Neil said that the fish are biting best around the change of tide and seem to be moving towards the inlet with the best action now located around the Lighthouse and the Sore Thumb.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** called to say that he planned a repeat of his great tile fishing expedition last week and has scheduled a new trip for May 15th. Call the Captain at 516-661-1652 for further information and to make reservations, which are a **MUST.** The Speedy VI is also making two trips daily at 7 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. for those big schools of mackerel that came in close to Fire Island Inlet over the weekend.

The Capt. Ben Litwin called in to report that on one trip with 52 people on board, 890 flounder were taken. Most of the flounder were in the 1½ to 2 lb. range, but the pool fish was over 2 lbs. The fishing was done mostly with clams off Ocean Beach and West Island.

BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station reports very good flounder catches being made from their skiffs, fish running from 1 to 1½ pounds on bloodworms and chum. Mr. Eberle and Mr. J. Iannone did particularly well this past week, as did a Mr. Mahlmud, fishing the Lindenhurst and Copiague holes on Saturday.

Babylon Fishing Station reports that West Island and Snake Hill Channel are producing best now, with knowledgeable fishermen taking about 25 flatties per boat. Every one is catching fish, says Bill, and you have to chum. The fish are really nice sized. Also try behind Grass Island. No one is coming in skunked. Some fluke have been taken in the weekend and the mackerel are offshore.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle reports that a fluke was taken on a squid strip this past week in Fire Island Inlet. Mackerel are on the outside, while some weakfish have fallen to Pussy Cat lures on hook and line with Joe G. bagging 2 5 pound weaks while mackerel fishing outside of the inlet. A 12 lb. blue all by his lonesome, was taken at the Sore Thumb from a boat by Larry Frank of Lindenhurst. Bait or lure is unknown. The flounder action is spotty but the fish are big, with Saturday producing particularly well. Try Oak Beach, inside at the Sore Thumb, Frank and Dick's and south of Good Sam. Worms and clam on the hook and heavy on the chum pot. John says that he now has fiddlers in stock for blackfish freaks.

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells of very good flounder fishing at Sloop channel,

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West Island, Amityville Cut, Nassau Shores and Squaw Island. Some weaks taken at the Copiague Hole by flounder fishermen. Mackerel on the outside with a lot being brought in. Weaks are being taken in the pound nets, and Jonas also is carrying fiddlers for blackfish.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports the flounder fishing is holding up well with the best areas being West Island and Squaw Island at the first of the flood and the last of the ebb. Zach's Bay is producing a few fish also. Blacks are being taken at the third Wantagh on green crabs, up to 3 pounds. A few weakfish have been taken off the beaches and a lot in nets. The hook and line fish are on trolled bucktails around the Rota Wreck. Macks outside in 60 feet of water southwest of Fire Island Inlet.

MASSAPEQUA

Bill at **Massapequa Tackle and Sports** tells us the flounders remain very good at Massapequa Cove, Squaw Island and Four Corners. On Saturday, Marty and Vivienne Jacobs had 100 flounder even, fish up to 2½ pounds taken at Massapequa Cove on worms and mussel chum on the flood, all in 2½ hours. Some sea bass and porgies were bagged by Ralph Wilcox while he was flounder fishing in Zach's Bay. He got 6 sea bass to a pound and 10 porgies.

SEAFORD

Capt. Eddie's Fishing Station tells us that Mario DePaulo of No. Massapequa hung a 2 lb. 14 oz. flounder on Sunday while fishing by the bridge. 3 anglers out in one skiff on Thursday took 141 flounder up to 1½ pounds fishing the Massapequa shoreline on sandworms, mussels and mussel chum. The flood is best. In general catches are very good with all boats getting fish.

BELLMORE

Merrick Marine employee Bill along with two friends from Grumman fished Broad Creek to the tune of 74 good keeper flounder, 8 being in the 2 lb. category. Mussels and bloodworms were the baits, heavy on the chum pot. In general the flounder fishing remains excellent with any kind of decent weather.

MERRICK

Stu Miller again had the rare privilege of taking the infamous G. Korn and son Larry floundering on Sunday. One drop was all that was needed at Rowboat Alley just off Whaleneck Pt. 40 good fat fish were taken for the day with G. Korn taking the pool with a 2 lb. 4 oz. flounder. His award for taking the winning the pool was an egg roll from Eng's Kitchen.

Nick's Fishing Station reports that on Saturday Leif Hendrickson took 6 keeper fluke from Swift Creek using sand eels. 8 80 flounder were taken by Barney Jacobs, Sonny Holmes and Pete Link, all of Bayridge. They fished Broad Creek at both sides of the top with mussels and worm along with chum. Hot spots are Rowboat Alley, The S Turn, and Broad Creek. The "Mar Jon" had 7 cod on Saturday from 15 to 25 pounds over open bottom.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The Aloma II had approximately 400 flounder for 18 fares on Saturday, fish from 1¼ to 3 pounds, taken from the Coast Guard Station and off the Jones Beach Piers on worms on a flood tide. On Sunday Captain Paul's 3 year old daughter caught 6 flounder. Captain John Grimley of the **Aloma** has been bagging up with lots of whiting but over the weekend hit pay dirt with the mackerel also. Both boats of the **Aloma Fleet** will be fishing mackerel by the time you read this report. See their ad for sailing time.

Captain Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin II** called to say that he is scheduling a tilefishing trip to the Hudson Canyon on a reservation basis. This will be the only Freeport boat going for tilefish. Check out the **Blue Fin II** ad in LIF for sailing date (May 29th at 10 P.M.)

The **Captain Hall**, the open boat of the **Freeport Boatmens Ass'n** did very well on the flounder this week with hi-hook of 24 on Wednesday, 47 on Thursday, 48 on Friday and 32 on Saturday. Some eels and sea robins are showing which is a healthy sign for the season.

The charterboat **Lucky Strike III** called to say that he is now docked with and is a member of the Freeport Boatmens Ass'n and also that a charter he had out on Saturday took 70 flounder from ¾ to 2 pounds fishing the Freeport creeks and Squaw Island with worms on the flood. This was Kevin Moriarty and party.

Charterboat **Miss Freeport** called to say that on Saturday the Con Ed charter

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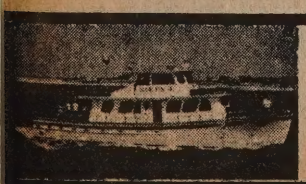

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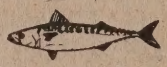

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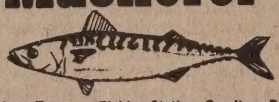

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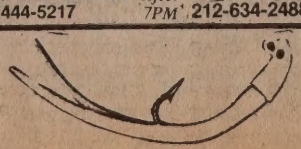

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led by Bob Tobia did very well on the flatfish at Swift and Sea Dog Creeks, fish up to 2 pounds. On Sunday a good catch was also accomplished by Ray Kleim and party though about 20 drops were necessary to find fish. Captain Tony asked us to announce that he will sail as an open boat on Mother's Day with half fare being charged for any son or daughter when accompanied by either parent.

The **Capt. Lou II** reports that Dennis Monoco of Whitestone took a 2¾ lb. flounder on Tuesday, the biggest flounder taken on the boat so far this year. The fish are on the move now, headed towards the inlet. The biggie was taken from the Funday Creek area. Saturday's flounder action was very good overall.

The charterboat **Sea Egg** called to tell us that Sunday's flounder charter working the Funday Creek area with bloodworms and clam chum. 59 fish up to 2 pounds were taken.

Ronnie at **Sea Isle Sports** reports really good flounder fishing off Squaw Island and at Swift Creek with both mussels and clam together in the chum pot, fishing both sides of the LOW. Macks on the outside just a mile outside of the inlet in 40 feet of water and weakfish in the nets. Fluke have been taken in Swift Creek on sandeels and the season is developing before our eyes.

Frank's Fishing Station tells us of good flounder fishing over this past week and weekend with the good spot being just east of Rowboat Alley. Doug McCann and Jeff Blossom had 60 flounder from 1½ to 2 pounds on Sunday fishing the Golf Course behind Merrick. Mackerel and whiting just outside the inlet. Flounder best on worms and mussel chum on an incoming tide.

The **Capt. Al** says that Wednesday, Thursday and Friday saw very good flounder fishing. Sunday the flounder was poor but mackerel saved the day. Al is now swinging over to mackerel every day, fishing 40 minutes from the dock. Big fish he says, doubles and triples.

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** is now mackerel fishing as he excitedly told us of full bags taken by nearly all fares on Sunday. All that was needed was one drift from the Whistler to buoy 4, fishing from 8 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. The fish were 1½ to 2 pounds and all hands were really loaded down with fish. Monday through Friday saw fantastic whiting fishing southwest of the Farms. Big fish. Some macks were taken every day. On Saturday all fares wanted whiting and strong catches were made along with about 400 mackerel. FLASH! Regular Mac McCarty of Hempstead, a retired engineer from the SS United States, hooked and landed a 4½ lb. whiting on Saturday, so all you mackerel fishermen come on down and do a number.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing before the bad weather over the weekend. One boat had 100 flounder up to 1-3/4 lbs. on worms and mussel chum fishing the Loop Parkway Bridge. The average catch has been

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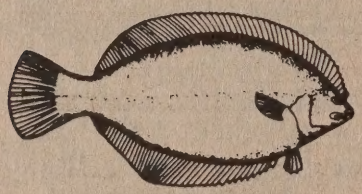

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40-50 fish per boat. Buoy 20 in Reynolds Channel has also been producing fish.

The **Marie III** reports the best weekend yet for mackerel and whiting. The macks are right outside Jones Inlet at the Whistler buoy and they are getting them three and four at a clip, all you want, along with plenty of whiting underneath them on the bottom.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle reports that bass of 19 and 21 inches were taken in the Pt. Lookout surf bait fishing. Duck Point has produced 50 fish per boat up to 2¼ lbs in Reynolds Channel and Duck Point.

The Commodore reports good flounder fishing, particularly on Saturday with a 2 lb. 3 oz. fish taking the pool for Far Rockaway angler Frank Herskowitz. 25 was hi-hook for the day, fishing Hog Channel and Hog Island and some points east. Two small fluke were also taken on the boat. A weakfish was taken off the Long Beach High School. Four stripers fell to worms on Wednesday for an angler fishing the Long Beach surf.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports flounder up to 1½ lbs are being taken on worms and mussels at the North and South Channel Bridges. Blackfish are being caught off Rockaway Beach on clams and fiddlers. Some bass are being taken in Jamaica Bay on worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Stella Maris reports a few mackerel being taken around the acid waters. There are flounder up to one pound being caught in Jamaica Bay. A few blackfish are being caught in the Seabright area and whiting are in the Scotland-Ambrose area.

The Eagle reports great whiting fishing and that the boat will begin mackerel fishing by the time you read this report. Catches should be very good by the weekend. The **Eagle** is beginning evening fishing also, and will be sailing 6 P.M. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday.

The **New Zephyr** is just starting to find blackfish now. The wrecks are showing life. They have been fishing local waters for flounders this past week, but as you read this report they will be hitting wrecks and aiming at blackfish and other bottom dwellers.

The **Blue Sea III** has been catching loads of whiting and also took a lot of mackerel on Sunday. They are now fishing for both species, macks at mid depths and whiting on the bottom. This is nice solid consistent daily catching with whiting running from ½ to 5 pounds. Action is from the tower to Augie's Lump, north of Klondike.

The **Big Mohawk II** has been doing a good steady job on ling and whiting at the BA area for a charter from Manhattan College on Saturday and a City Island Charter on Sunday.

The **Dorothy B** reports great whiting fishing all week long with the weekend

poor due to the roughness of the water. hey are now after mackerel, so come own and bag up.

The **Elsie K III** has been catching a lot f whiting all this past week but also as ou read this, the boat is now mackerel shing so you can take your choice of ackerel or fish the bottom for the ever resent whiting.

Captain Walter on the **Flamingo II** also eports excellent whiting fishing, 30 to fish per man. Even Sunday's east inds and rain didn't put too much of a amper on the action. He has been shing from the tower to the Scotland rea, the Mud Hole and the BA area. Whiting are mixed sizes. Walter is now winging to mackerel but as previously entioned these trips can get you ackerel or whiting depending on the epth you fish. A new boat, the **amingo III** will be coming up soon, Valter told us proudly. She'll be a 65 ot sea worthy, stable and quiet wood oat with lots of deck space.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports flounder re being caught in Great Kills Harbor, to 3/4 lbs. with worms being the best et. Bigger flounder can be taken on the each side, but there is no quantity. ripers are being caught on the beach de up to 12 lbs., with incoming tide roducing best. Worms are the bait sed. Artificials are being used in the ack of Great Kills Harbor for bass up to lbs. Bucktails and swimmers are ere. Eels and tommy cod are being cked up at piers 8, 17 and 18.

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reports good flounder ishing off the abandoned lighthouse, he oyster factory, South Ferry, off essups and Crab Creek. Plenty of nackerel are being caught at buoys 12 & 7 on mackerel trees with a diamond jig t the bottom.

GREENPORT

The **Wilhelric** reports very good lounder fishing all week long including he weekend. The fish are starting to nove into deeper waters now and the oat will be fishing Gardiner's and the ound for these bigger fish. Still plenty f smaller fish around but the bigger atties want the deeper, colder water ow. Sandworms and red dyed clam are he ticket and the boat has been drifting ntil they find fish, then throwing the ook.

A.P. White Bait Shop reported a very ood week for flounder fishing. Places ke East Marion, the abandoned light, Cedar Point and North Haven also roduced good catches. The nice wea-

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Dominick DeRanieri, his two sons and Frank DeStefano from Bkly'n with the 67 flounder they took in the South Race, south of buoy 25 taken on mussels and sandworms. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station, New Suffolk.

ther of last week produced more people than the weekend. Mike Jaclick got two weakfish in his traps over by Pipe's Cove last week. No blackfish yet, only one small striper taken so far. There's a lot of mackerel out by the Greenport jetty but not many people are out fishing for them. Both the **Wilhelric** and the **Brand X** had good days last week. On some trips the fares had more than 35 fish per man. Naturally not everybody did that

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well but overall flounder fishing was pretty good.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports flounder up to 3 pounds are being taken off Nassau Point on mussels and worms. The fishing was slow over the weekend because of weather conditions.

Cliff Brown took 72 flounder and Marshal Robinson took 51 flounder. All fish were taken in the south race, buoy 25 on mussels.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center said some

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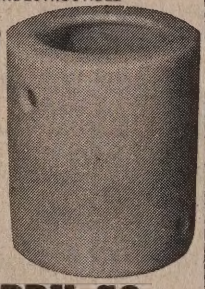

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weaks were taken over by the South Race. These fish were small and there weren't many of them. Last Sunday morning one fellow got two weaks about four pounds apiece and 12 mackerel from 1½ to 2 pounds over at Jessups Point. He was only about 2 hours. Flounder fishing is good in Peconic Bay on the sunnier days. No bass yet that have been verified though there's lots of rumors floating around.

ROCKY POINT

The **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reports that flounder are being taken along the North Shore beaches, up to 2 lbs. Conscience Bay and Port Jefferson Harbor are producing flounder on worms and mussel chum. Catches of small blackfish are on the increase, with fish being caught up to 4 lbs.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports that flounder are being caught at buoy 11 and into Sound Beach up to 1½ lbs. on worms and mussels. Blackfish are being taken mixed in with the flounder.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports that mackerel are being taken at buoy 11, up to 3 lbs. Flounder up to 3 lbs. can be caught on worms and mussel chum at buoy 11. Smaller fish in the 3/4 to 1-1/4 range are inside the harbor. There are a few blacks mixed in with the flounder at buoy 11.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station reports flounder fishing was good before this weekend's bad weather. Up to 20 fish per boat were taken. Mackerel are being

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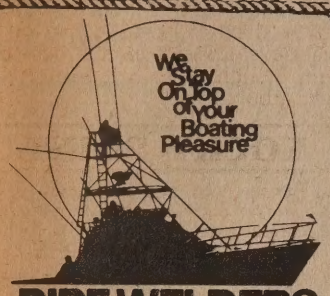

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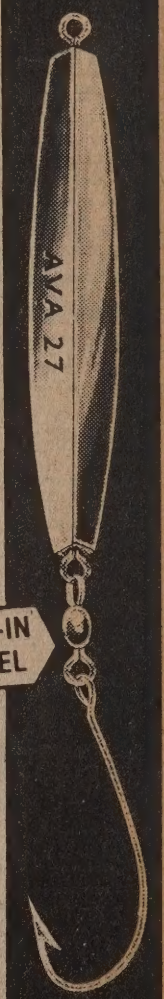

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caught off Cranes Neck and catches of black have been reported off the Mansions.

NORTHPORT

Fred from the **Chainlocker** reports flounder fishing is the best he's seen in 25 years of fishing in the Northport area. The fishing is best on the incoming tide of Little Neck Point and shifts to Duck Island Harbor on the outgoing. Mussel chum is a must. Dolf DeJong from California had over 100 fat flounder up to 2 lbs. aboard Fred's Whaler. Outside, the fishing from Callahan's to Crab Meadow has picked up. Drift the bottom until you get a pick-up, then anchor and chum like mad. Twenty to twenty-five feet has been the best. A word of caution to people using two rods. The blacks are starting to hit flounder bait and two men lost poles during the week. Signs of mackerel feeding on top were seen on Saturday morning between the Lilco loading platform and Eaton's Neck.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle reports flounder fishing has slowed because of the bad weather, but flounder are still being taken at Lloyd Harbor, Duck Harbor and Callahans. A few tommy cod are being caught in Duck Harbor. Blacks are starting to be caught off Callahans. Bass are at the Lilco outflow, and can be caught on bucktails in the day and worms at night.

CITY ISLAND

Jack at **Jack's Bait and Tackle** said the flounder fishing wasn't too bad on the nicer days last week. Needless to say, no one was thrilled by last Sunday's weather. A few blackfish were caught by the bridge and Hart's Island on clams. Jack says he has some fiddlers in if you want to try for blacks. School bass fishing in Turtle Cove has been fair. Jack said you need hald tide up to high water for best results. Worm fishing is accounting for all the fish. No mackerel reported taken yet with hook and line.

Captain Henry Baker of Edgewater N.J. with 20 flounder in the 1½ to 1¾ lb. range caught between the 2 pound nets on the west side of Jessup's Neck. Photo courtesy of Port of Egypt.

though the captain of the Nort
he's seen plenty of swirls. It sh
least another week before we
macks. Last year they started a
beginning of May.

GROTON

Capt. George Glas of the **Hel-Cat** reports that spring codfishing picked up a bit this week with more of the fish taken in the medium size range. In addition, the first blackfish of the season were caught. Average catch was 7 fish per man. The boat fished the Cartwright Grounds, south of Montauk, which proved to be more productive than the Block Island Grounds this past week. Don Zehren of Norwich was last week's **Hel-Cat** fish of the week award winner and Richard C. McCain of Springfield, Mass. took the honors this week.

Jim Pyne, Charles Kaufman and Jim Dorrusso from Queens took these flounder up to 2 pounds off the Coast Guard Station in E. Moriches. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR	3:36	4:27	4:39	5:16	4:09	5:01	5:32	6:08	6:55	7:32	7:30	8:01	3:57	4:30	4/28
FRI	4:42	5:25	5:35	6:09	5:18	6:00	5:27	6:56	7:59	8:31	8:28	8:54	4:52	5:21	4/29
SAT	5:43	6:16	6:30	6:57	6:18	6:51	7:19	7:43	9:03	9:29	9:21	9:42	5:45	6:11	4/30
SUN	6:39	7:09	7:21	7:48	7:14	7:38	8:10	8:30	9:59	10:20	10:12	10:32	6:37	7:00	5/1
MON	7:29	7:56	8:11	8:35	8:03	8:25	8:59	9:16	10:53	11:12	11:01	11:18	7:25	7:48	5/2
TUE	8:18	8:44	9:00	9:24	8:52	9:15	9:48	10:06	11:45	—	11:50	—	8:15	8:37	5/3
WED	9:09	9:33	9:50	10:14	9:45	10:06	10:40	10:56	12:01	12:36	12:08	12:40	9:05	9:28	5/4
THUR	10:01	10:25	10:43	11:07	10:43	11:03	11:33	11:48	12:52	1:29	12:57	1:31	9:57	10:19	5/5

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet .....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 16
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 28

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER RR.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/1	5:43	6:25
4/6	5:35	6:31
4/11	5:27	6:36
4/16	5:19	6:42
4/21	5:11	6:48
4/26	5:03	6:53

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/18	4/26	4/4	4/10

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

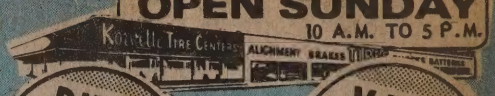
The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	6:30	12:35	6:45	1:00
FRI.	7:15	1:30	7:40	1:50
SAT.	8:05	2:20	8:30	2:45
SUN.	10:00	4:10	10:20	4:35
MON.	10:50	5:00	11:10	5:25
TUES.	11:40	5:55	—	6:20
WED.	12:05	6:40	12:35	7:00
THURS.	12:40	7:20	1:15	7:45

Ko ttes

OPEN SUNDAY 10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.



RV RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

PICK UPS

4WD 4-WHEEL DRIVE

DUNE BUGGIES

CLUB & SUBURBAN WAGONS

VANS

LT LIGHT TRUCK

TIRE JAMBOREE

HUGE SELECTION OF RV/TRUCK TIRES

HI-FLOTATION, ON/OFF ROAD & HIGHWAY RAISED WHITE LETTER & BLACK TOO...ALL AT LOW LOW AFFORDABLE KORVETTE PRICES.

DENMAN HANDCRAFTED

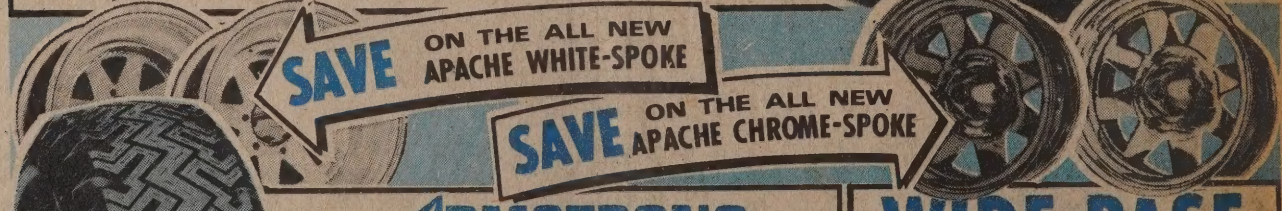
GROUND HAWG

"THE TIRE THAT'S TAKING AMERICA BY STORM"

HIGH FLOTATION ON/OFF ROAD RV & 4WD

TUBELESS SIZES	PLY RTG	LOAD RANGE	PRICES	FED TAX
10-15	4	B	56.85	4.18
10-15	6	C	58.85	4.37
11-15	6	C	64.85	4.60
12-15	4	B	77.85	5.18
12-15	6	C	83.85	5.41

TUBELESS SIZES	PLY RTG	LOAD RANGE	PRICES	FED TAX
14/35-15	6	C	94.85	6.20
14/35-16	6	C	95.85	6.39
12-16.5	4	B	81.85	5.31
14/35-16.5	6	C	96.85	6.70



SAVE ON THE ALL NEW APACHE WHITE-SPOKE

SAVE ON THE ALL NEW APACHE CHROME-SPOKE

ARMSTRONG TRU-TRAC

$68.85 WHITE-LETTERED SIZE 11 - 15

PLUS 4.18 FED. TAX

WIDE BASE HIGHWAY TRUCK TIRES

TUBELESS SIZES	PLY RTG	SIDEWALL	PRICES	FED TAX
11-15	4	WHITE-LETTER	55.85	4.18
H78-15	6	BLACKWALL	51.85	3.50
800-16.5	8	BLACKWALL	49.85	3.56
875-16.5	8	BLACKWALL	54.85	4.10

PRECISION INSTALLATION INCLUDED. NO TRA DE-IN REQUIRED.

CHARGE IT INSTANTLY

WESTBURY GLEN COVE ROAD & WESTBURY AVE. (516) 747-6800

HUNTINGTON ROUTE 110 (WALT WHITMAN ROAD) (516) 271-6300

DOUGLASTON DOUGLASTON PKWY. (Just off L.I. Expwy.) (212) 321-4300

LAWRENCE PENINSULA BLVD. & ROCKAWAY BLVD. (516) 239-5000

W. HEMPSTEAD 101 HEMPSTEAD TPKE. (516) 538-3060

AT ALL QUEENS, NASSAU & SUFFOLK LOCATIONS

HOURS: DAILY 8:30 AM TO 10 PM (WESTBURY, W. HEMPSTEAD TILL 9:30 PM) • SAT. 8:30 AM TO 9:30 PM (DOUG. TILL 10 PM) • SUNDAY 10 AM TO 5 PM

WORLD'S LARGEST SELECTION OF TOP QUALITY TIRES